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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Limtiaco meets election commission. PAGE 3
NMC anticipates $900K shortfall this fiscal year. PAGE 6

Budget bill now law

» CNMI government partial shutdown ends

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday a budget bill that the Legislature passed late Friday night after weeks of bitter deadlock, ending the CNMI government's partial shutdown that left some 1,400 government employees without work since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011 on Oct. 1.

With the signing of the budget law, the 1,400 employees will be back to work tomorrow, joining their fellow public servants who were considered essential and therefore were allowed to work during a shutdown.

Today is Commonwealth Cultural Day, which the governor declared yesterday a paid holiday.

The budget law requires a 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays to live within the $132 million projected revenue available for government operations in FY 2011.

But in his message to the Legislature

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Attorney General warns agencies of paying volunteer employees during the shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has warned all agencies and departments on the consequences they would face if they pay their employees who performed as "volunteers" during the seven-day shutdown.

In a memorandum to the Commonwealth Election Commission and other department heads, the attorney general emphasized that the Commonwealth is prohibited by law from accepting voluntary unpaid services from its employees.

This after the OAG received several inquiries whether a non-essential employee may volunteer their assistance with the understanding that their services are gratuitous and will not be paid for by the government.

Saipan Tribune learned that despite the government shutdown due to failure to pass a balanced budget, many personnel who were not classified "essential" by the administration worked as volunteer at their respective departments.

"No, the Commonwealth is prohibited by law from accepting voluntary unpaid services from its employees. Federal statutes require the timely pay-

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350 TREES FOR 10/10/10

Community members get to pick their choice of shrubs or trees that the Mariana Islands Natural Alliance gave away for free in front of their office on Beach Road on Saturday afternoon. The distribution continued yesterday morning. MINA's goal is to distribute 350 trees to be planted on Oct. 10, 2010, as part of a worldwide movement to combat global warming. Scientists say 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. Below shows MINA chair Frances Castro urging motorists and passersby to avail of the free trees on Saturday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AFTER $300K DESK AUDIT REVEALS OVERSTAFFING

Fitial admin urged to trim DPS, DCCA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers called on the Fitial administration to trim down the personnel at the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs following the release last week of a $300,000 independent audit report saying that certain units at DPS and DCCA are overstaffed, and have unjustifiable and overlapping functions.

The CNMI government has some 5,000 employees. At least 3,838 are locally funded, based on the newly signed Fiscal Year 2011 budget law.

Lawmakers interviewed said the desk audit results confirmed what they suspected all along: that certain government agencies are bloated.

"Had they conducted desk audit for all government agencies and offices, it would show that it's not only DPS and DCCA that are overstaffed. The government is broke, and no need to maintain the same level of personnel especially if many are political hires and not really essential," said Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), a former director at DCCA's Office on Aging.

Palacios said he "always knew that the government is overstaffed" but no independent desk audit has been done until recently.

Because of funding limitation, the Fitial administration was only able to fund a desk audit for DPS and DCCA,

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Uncle Dave receives congressional commendation

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

David M. Sablan receives his congressional commendation from CNMI Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan while wife Rita looks on.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For his commitment and contributions to the community, Century Insurance Co. president David M. Sablan received a congressional commendation from CNMI Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan in an intimate ceremony on Oct. 7 at the JP Center.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Edward Arriola, Jr. read the U.S. Congressional Record Vol. 156 No. 128 that paid tribute to the contributions to Sablan, known to many as Uncle Dave.

In an interview, Sablan said he was oblivious of the social gathering organized in his honor that he was so moved and became emotional as he accepted the award in the presence of close friends and colleagues.

Sablan recounted that he became more puzzled when his wife Rita presented him with a mwar mwar and a lei.

"I was totally surprised. Seeing the mixture of guests—Fr. Ryan, Kilili, Kyle Calabrese, the staff and management of Century Insurance—I became emotional," he said.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the award greatly affected him because it essentially described what he has done and gone through in his life.

The son of Elias Parong and Carmen Mangarero Sablan, Sablan was born in Garapan, Saipan on April 2, 1932 during the Japanese occupation of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"It was a very difficult time not only for my family but for all of us because island natives were considered third class Japanese," said Sablan.

According to Sablan, things became more difficult during the war as the Japanese evicted them out of their own houses and made them stay in a coconut thatch.

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Limtiaco meets election commission

» Benedetto appoints Benedetto district election officer for NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

United States Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco visited the island last Friday and met with representatives of the local agencies that would take part in the upcoming congressional election next month.

Limtiaco personally introduced to election executive director Robert A. Guerrero assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto who will serve as the district election officer for the Commonwealth and who will lead the efforts of U.S. Attorney's Office in the implementation of the justice department's nationwide election day program for the Nov. 2 congressional polls.

The meeting that took place at the election commission office Friday morning was also graced by representatives from the Office of Public Auditor and Attorney General's Office.

Prior to Limtiaco's visit, the lawyer pointed out in a letter to Guerrero that her office's involvement in the local election is primarily to provide assistance and coordination among agencies.

"It is likely that the majority of questions, concerns, and complaints received by your office regarding the upcoming elections will relate to matters subject to the sole jurisdiction of local or state authorities. However, the justice department also has important responsibilities relating to the integrity of federal elections and the protection of voting rights," said Limtiaco.

To assist the local election commission in identifying election fraud, intimidation, and suppression matters that might be of federal interest, she provided the agency an outline of the principal bases through which the federal government attains prosecutorial jurisdiction over election fraud, intimidation, suppression and general types of conduct that can be prosecuted under existing federal criminal law.

Because the federal government will have jurisdiction over all Commonwealth elections in the future, due to the adoption of Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 in the last elections, Limtiaco emphasized that it is her intent to publish a series of outreach articles to help educate the public about federal election law.

Besides Benedetto, Limtiaco also assigned Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Sharon Huber who will serve as acting district's election crime coordinator in the CNMI and who will be available on Saipan to receive complaints on election day of possible election fraud, intimidation, suppression and other election and voting abuses.

Limtiaco said complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination should be made to the Civil Rights Division's Voting section in Washington.

"We look forward to working together towards the twin goals of ensuring that those who are entitled to the franchise are able to exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice," Limtiaco told Guerrero in her letter.

Guerrero, for his part, told *Saipan Tribune* that they're happy with the assistance offered by the federal attorney's office in making sure of a smooth and peaceful congressional election next month.

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FITIAL

From Page 1

because they are among the biggest departments.

DCCA, at the time of the desk audit, had 228 employees, at least 82 of them are locally funded and the others are federal funded.

Despite the financial crisis, the Fiscal Year 2011 budget law shows an increase in DCCA's locally funded employees. From 82 in FY 2010, it went up to at least 88 in 2011.

At DPS, there are 258 employees locally funded in FY 2011.

"I urge the governor to reduce DPS and DCCA personnel now that it's confirmed they're overstaffed. Government employees should also be cross-trained so that when one is absent, another can take over his functions and duties and without disrupting the delivery of public service. How many times do you go to a government office and they tell you they cannot do this and that because the person doing it is absent?" Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Friday.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said his proposal to hold a budget summit, which was thumbed down early this year, would have identified positions in agencies and departments that could be eliminated amid the financial crisis.

"Because in the past years we didn't have annual budget, it was hard to cut government excess fat. But this decision could be a policy call. Do we want reduction of work hours or layoffs or removing duplication of functions? I'm willing to bet if you do this desk audit on the whole government, it will show offices are overstaffed," he said.

Benavente, author of the legislative initiative which restricted continuing resolution and required annual budget passed, said trimming down the government, however, should not result in reduction of services for the people but only in reduction in unnecessary positions.

He added that it would have been a waste of $300,000—the cost of contract awarded to Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc.—if the Fitial administration ignores the recommendations.

"I hope this administration considers this an opportunity to reduce overstaffing. Instead of paying more for overtime at DPS, for example, the government should increase the salary of deserving DPS personnel," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan earlier said the "recommendations of the audit review team are not binding decisions at this time."

The Fitial administration used a U.S. Department of the Interior technical assistance grant to pay for the desk audit contractor.

BUDGET

From Page 1

yesterday, Fitial raised several concerns that need be addressed, including increased funding for Tinian, Saipan, Northern Islands, and other programs and agencies at a time when government resources are limited.

He also line-item vetoed the subsidies for Rota charter flights.

Lawmakers, in separate interviews yesterday, lauded the governor for immediately signing the budget bill into law so that all employees can go back to work on Tuesday.

"It's great news for the people and the CNMI. I only wish we (were able to) settle our differences earlier so that people would not miss out on six days of work," House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said.

House Bill 17-123, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1 is now Public Law 17-21.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), introduced the budget bill, the fifth one that the House introduced since the start of the 17th Legislature.

The others were HBs 17-96, 17-119, 17-121, and 17-122.

"After eight full days of the government shutdown, the Legislature passed a balanced budget, which by this enactment, restores all government activities," Fitial said in his Oct. 10 budget approval message to House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona.

Fitial said the Legislature's aspirations to lessen the financial impact on government employees seemingly delayed the timely passage of a balanced budget.

"While I share the same concerns as yours, we cannot turn a blind eye on the fact that our Commonwealth has been experiencing a decline in revenue for some time now and can no longer sustain the activities and employees it has without much needed austerity measures. Thus, in an effort to retain as many employees as possible, my budget submission included a 16 hour bi-weekly reduction in work hours," Fitial said.

Lesson for everyone

The Senate president and the governor separately said the shutdown is a "big lesson" to everyone.

It was the first time in CNMI history that the government partially shut down.

"We should not sit and do nothing and expect to come up with a budget. I pointed out many times in the past to start planning early and review revenues and expenditures. There's no greater task than passing a timely budget," Manglona said.

The House and the Senate had been in deadlock over the budget bill's work hour cuts, among other things.

A conference committee formed was later dissolved due to continuing impasse until the Sept. 30 deadline passed without a budget, resulting in the governor's emergency declaration on the shutdown for lack of a budget before the start of FY 2011.

Fitial said the partial shutdown of government services, along with the hardships endured by government employees, their families, and businesses, "should be heeded as a lesson of the severe impact caused by failing to timely pass a balanced budget as required by our Constitution."

"Therefore, despite the many concerns of this appropriations measure, I approve this legislation to restore normalcy into our government operations and the lives of our government employees," he said.

The governor also lauded the House and the Senate for ensuring that the Maintenance-of-Effort requirements for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College were met.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), in applauding the governor for signing the bill into law, said although there are some decisions where the governor exercised his line-item veto authority, he believes this can be resolved by the agency.

"I'm happy that our hard working public agency employees can now go back to work on Tuesday. We can now move forward on other important things for the NMI," he said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he's "glad this is all over with."

"It's been a long ordeal for everyone," he added.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said they're happy to hear that the governor has taken a swift action on the bill, and that all workers can go back to work.

"I'm hoping that no layoffs will occur since the administration got what it asked for," Conner said.

Fitial also reminded lawmakers that there is much work that remains to be done.

"As we implement and expend funds under this Act, we must not lose sight of the other challenges that we continue to seek resolution for, such as the increasing costs for health and life insurance, as well as the increasing employer contribution rates for the defined benefit plan members of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund. I recommend that the members of the Legislature begin exploring options as to address these issues," he said.

Lawmakers echoed Fitial's statement on the work ahead.

Camacho said "this is only the first step."

"We have much more work ahead of us, both the House and the Senate," the House floor leader said.

House minority leader Rep. Diego Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Legislative Initiative 16-11, which voters approved during the 2009 elections, prohibits the expenditure of government funds from the Treasury except by appropriations made by law.

The initiative imposed penalties to ensure a budget would be passed and in effect by the first day of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 of each year.

The penalties include the suspension of government services, except for those deemed to be essential. Lawmakers also will not be paid until they pass a budget.

Line-item vetoed

The governor line-item vetoed the subsidies for Rota charter flights, saying it may set bad precedence for the future of the government.

The disapproved provision of the budget measure is Line 20 under Section 708 (a), amounting to $360,000.

"Instead of approving subsidies for charter flights to Rota, the administration urged greater legislative collaboration in assisting the Marianas Visitors Authority in its effort to effectively promote the NMI as a single destination," the governor said.

The Senate president said yesterday he does not see any problem with the line-item veto, since this amount is already under the Marianas Visitors Authority's funding.

"Rota wouldn't have gotten additional money out of that appropriation but just wanted MVA's obligations related to the charter flights to Rota some two years ago to be paid," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor said this particular appropriation subsidizes a private company for charter flights and related tourism activities to Rota, and it is not supported by any detailed cost analysis to justify the amount claimed.

Fitial noted that Tinian and Saipan also face immense challenges with charter flights to the respective islands.

"Subsidizing charter flights for one island and/or one company may lead to subsidies for the other islands as well, but more importantly, may lead to government subsidies in other private efforts in the CNMI. Instead of subsidizing one particular company for one particular island, I strongly urge the legislature to work collaboratively with the administration in assisting MVA to achieve greater success in promoting the Commonwealth as one paradise destination," he added.

Santos, a freshman lawmaker from Rota, said Rota Legislative Delegation can perhaps look into other revenue sources to be able to fund Rota charter flights.

Effective Oct. 5, Continental Micronesia suspended its air service to Rota but will resume the flights after April 2011, after the scheduled maintenance work on its ATR aircraft is completed.

Today is paid holiday

In a separate directive yesterday, Fitial declared Oct. 11 a paid holiday. Today is Commonwealth Cultural Day.

He said he recognizes the financial hardships that the shutdown has brought upon many government employees and their families, and has thus exercised his authority pursuant to Section 605(c) of P.L. 17-21, to declare one or more holidays to which employees may receive leave with pay.

"Government employees who are not scheduled to work on Commonwealth Cultural Day shall be paid charging available annual leave hours for this holiday. Government employees who are scheduled to work on this holiday shall be paid their regular pay. I take this step to ease the financial hardship experienced by our employees and their families as a result of the government shutdown caused by the delay in the passage of the budget," he said in Directive 274 to all branches, departments, and agencies.

He advised all government employees to report back to work tomorrow.

AG WARNS

From Page 1

ment of minimum compensation and earned overtime to employee who perform any work during the work week. This requirement cannot be waived by the employee and courts have also held that it applies to public employees whose salary payments are suspended during a budget impasse," the OAG's memorandum received by the office of CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero stated.

It was pointed out that violations of the federal statutes may lead to civil damages, liquidated damages, fines, criminal penalties, and personal liability for public officials.

In states like Connecticut, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, employee furloughs and temporary freezes on salary payments were also experienced. But the OAG said that courts of these states have found that the Fair Labor Standards Act continues to apply.

OAG said that CNMI does not have 11th amendment immunity with respect to the Fair Labor Standard Act and that a civil action for violations of the Act may be brought against the Commonwealth and its officials in the U.S. District Court.

Also, OAG said the FLSA specifically does not allow an employee to volunteer services to their employer without pay.

"Allowing these employees to show up to perform any of their usual tasks would trigger the mandatory payment provisions of the FLSA and expose the Commonwealth to liability and to potential civil and liquidated damages if the volunteers are not timely paid for their services at the prescribed federal rates," the AOG added.

UNCLE DAVE

From Page 2

"It was really difficult particularly for our family because my father was mistaken for a spy since he knew how to speak English," Sablan narrated, adding that his father was one of two who spoke English during that time.

During that challenging period, Sablan said their family managed to cope by gathering every afternoon while listening to her sister play the piano organ.

When American forces came to the islands and fought with the Japanese, Sablan's family fled to the caves in the hills along with other natives to protect themselves from the ongoing battle between the two nations.

Sablan said everyone in the caves subsisted by eating sugarcane which they harvested by coming out of the caves.

He said some of those who collected sugarcane for food were followed back by American Marines who were able to follow them back to the caves.

Two years after the war, Sablan's father Elias served as mayor of Saipan for 10 years. Elias then decided to send the younger Sablan to Guam to pursue his studies but reminded him about a very important lesson that he followed dutifully and even passed on to his five children.

"Go and learn as much as you can then come back and share your knowledge to the community," Elias told David.

Sablan heeded his father's advice and completed his education at the George Washington High School. Subsequently, he worked for the Atkins Kroll and the Bank of Hawaii branch in Guam.

He returned to Saipan in 1965 after Atkins Kroll asked him to establish an office in his hometown. Sablan succeeded in setting up the Atkins Kroll's Saipan office, which later became Microl Corp.

Sablan's involvement with the public sector included working as an economic consultant to the Legislature and as a special assistant for planning and budget.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan selected Sablan to serve on the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws.

Sablan was also actively involved with the tourism industry through the Pacific Micronesia Corporation, Tasi Tours and Transportation, Pacific Asia Travel Association, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Sablan's contributions to the business sector consist of serving for the Saipan and Guam Chambers of Commerce and the Strategic Economic Development Council.

Moreover, Sablan was also involved with organizations such as the Guam Chapter of the Navy League of the United States, Rotary Club of Saipan, Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Sablan, who also serves as the president of Century Tours and Travel, has been named Saipan Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year, the Guam Business Executive of the Year, and the Rotary Club of Saipan Citizen of the Year.

"I'm really, really pleased that Kilili gave me this but I feel that this recognition should have been for my father," said the still emotional Sablan. "I wish that my dad were here to see me accept the award. I dedicate this award to my Dad," he added.

Plane crash survivor and family settle lawsuit with Tinian Dynasty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of the seven occupants of a Piper Cherokee aircraft who was injured when the plane crashed in Upper Dandan, Saipan in 2006, has reached a settlement with the defendants in his lawsuit in federal court.

According to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* on Friday, Patrick James Timmerman, his wife, Maria Purley Agcaoili Timmerman, and their minor son Joshua Patrick, agreed a settlement during the settlement conference conducted on Sept. 23, 2010.

Timmerman and his family and the defendants have asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to give them a brief period of time to prepare a confidential settlement agreement consistent with the settlement reached.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip M. Pro ordered the parties in the lawsuit to file a stipulation for dismissal of this case on or before Oct. 28, 2010.

Timmerman sustained severe and permanent injuries in the crash. He is a licensed pilot who was then employed with Tinian Dynasty. When the crash happened on Aug. 11, 2006 he was seated next to the pilot.

Timmerman, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, sued the Taga Air Charter Services Inc., Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., and Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc. for alleged negligence. His family also joined the lawsuit as co-plaintiffs.

Tinian Dynasty had already settled the lawsuits filed by two other passengers—Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto.

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SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
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DUE TO SMALLER APPROPRIATION FOR FY2011

NMC anticipates $900K shortfall this fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College said that it expects to incur a shortfall of $900,000 this fiscal year after the recently passed budget law appropriated only $4.4 million for its operations.

NMC chief financial and administrative officer Henry Hofschneider said the $4.4 million represents a significant drop from the $5.6 million it received in FY 2009 and is still less than the $5.2 million it got in FY 2010.

The shortfall, according to Hofschneider, will affect the college's retirement contribution effort seven as NMC's actuarial rate—like the rest of the government—rises to 30 percent beginning this fiscal year.

Hofschneider

"The $900,000 shortfall is for the retirement contributions…" said Hofschneider during Thursday's board meeting.

The financial officer revealed that his efforts to convince the lawmakers to provide NMC a higher appropriation failed.

"Our budget level keeps going down because of the maintenance-of-effort [MOE] level. I asked and I beg to give NMC more than the MOE level…but they didn't even lift a finger [for us]," said Hofschneider.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC submitted a proposed budget of $9.5 million for FY 2011. The governor then cut the proposal to $4.8 million, using the projected MOE level required by the U.S. Department of Education.

From the budget bills introduced in the legislature, NMC's proposed appropriation went down from $5.6 million to $4.9 million until lawmakers endorsed $4.4 million budget.

Hofschneider said NMC needs at least the same funding level of $5.2 million this fiscal year to survive.

Saipan Tribune learned that because of some "confusion" on the calculation and formula used to get the MOE level, NMC may get a higher appropriation than $4.4 million.

Hofschneider revealed that the Department of Commerce will come up with a revised MOE analysis which figures reflect about $5 million budget for the college.

"I think we're on the road to seeing a revised MOE analysis from the commerce and if that happens, our number will go up to about $5 million," he added.

The budget bill passed the Legislature last Friday and was signed by the Gov. Benigno R. Fitial over the weekend.

Street Market falls victim to shutdown

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Third Street on Garapan, which comes alive and bustling every Thursday night from 5pm to 9pm, was oddly quiet as the weekly anticipated Garapan Street Market did not open to the public last Oct. 7.

The Garapan Street Market, which provides a venue for all locals and tourists looking to enjoy great food and entertainment, closed down for the first time since the government shutdown that began on Oct. 1.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the government shutdown resulted to the closure of the Garapan Street Market.

"The shutdown had a great impact, even to the Street Market," said Faisao in a phone interview.

According to Faisao, the Garapan Street Market will remain closed to the public until the government shutdown is in effect and no balanced budget is passed by the Legislature.

For the first time in CNMI history, the government partially shut down beginning Oct. 1 following the 17th Legislature's failure to pass a balanced budget by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Faisao said the shutdown has a devastating effect on the tourism industry, businesses that have booths at the street market, and the local families that bond and have fun by visiting the street market.

Although he is aware of the negative effect of the closure of the street market, Faisao said there is nothing he can do about the situation. "It's beyond my control," he added.

Before lawmakers finally hammered out a budget bill and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed it into law over the weekend, Faisao urged the Legislature to do pass a balanced budget to put a stop to the impact of the government shutdown.

"The Legislature needs to put their act together. The people are suffering. The vendors and tourists are affected," said Faisao last week.

DESPITE STRICT BANKRUPTCY LAW

Number of bankruptcy filings continues to increase

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Despite strict bankruptcy law, there are now a dozen of bankruptcy petitions filed in federal court so far this year, surpassing eight such petitions filed last year.

On Friday, Eriberto Carlos, through counsel Loren Sutton, filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Carlos joined nine individuals and two corporations in filing bankruptcy petitions this year.

Carlos listed one to 49 creditors. He estimated his assets as $0 to $50,000 and liabilities as $0 to $50,000.

Last year, seven individuals, including former congressman Martin B. Ada, and one corporation filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions.

Under a Chapter 7 petition, most assets of the debtors are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or her debts over a period of three to five years.

The all-time highest record of bankruptcy cases was in 2005 when 31 cases were recorded.

One of the main reasons for the 2005 highest record was because the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act took effect beginning that year. The Act increased the filing fee and made bankruptcy petitions stricter, among other things.

From 18 bankruptcy cases in 1998 due to the Asian economic crisis, the cases soared to 23 in 2000.

The Department of Interior recommends U.S. Citizenship or permanent residency for long-term guest workers.

The Covenant Party strongly disagrees!

The Covenant Party believes guest workers came into the CNMI to temporarily supplement---not permanently replace---our local workforce.

The founding fathers of the Covenant never contemplated the granting of U.S. Citizenship or permanent residency for long-term guest workers.

Please join the Covenant Party in rejecting the DOI report.

Let the will of the people be heard.

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Paid for by the Covenant Party. Emma S. Villagomez, Treasurer.

Supreme Court OKs Govendo's request to call Manglona as witness

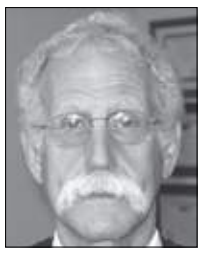
» But Justice Pro Tem Manibusan cautions against abuse of witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has granted Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's request to call associate judge Ramona V. Manglona to testify in court in his disciplinary proceedings, but cautioned Govendo not to abuse Manglona as a witness.

During Friday's hearing, Supreme Court Justice Pro Tem Edward Manibusan said he has no problem with Govendo's motion to call Manglona as well as Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja on Oct. 15, 2010, the day of the hearing to determine what sanctions to be imposed on Govendo.

Manibusan, however, stressed that the Supreme Court panel will be careful as to the relevance of the testimony and will not allow the parties to engage in resorting to "abuse of witness."


Govendo

Manglona

Govendo assured the court that he has no intention of abusing Manglona as a complaining witness.

The disciplinary case against Govendo arose from a November 2008 decision issued by Judge Manglona where she cited Govendo for violating the "principles of decorum and temperance."

Manglona then wrote a letter to the CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan alleging that Govendo violated the code of judicial conduct.

The Supreme Court had found Govendo's use of "adios muchacho" and two other statements in court to be racially derogatory and a violation of canons and rules of judicial conduct.

Govendo recently submitted his list of witnesses in preparation for the Oct. 15 hearing. He summoned Judges Manglona and Naraja to testify.

During Friday's hearing about the witnesses' issue, Govendo said calling Manglona to the witness stand is taking a risk on his part since Manglona was the one who complained against him.

Govendo repeatedly used the term that "she's the one who started it all."

Special Ethics Prosecutor Bruce A. Bradley, who argued via on the telephone, said it was not Manglona who started it all but it's because of Govendo's use of inappropriate language in open court.

Bradley said Manglona as the complaining witness was just fulfilling her duty to report.

Bradley said although he is not speaking on behalf of Manglona, he can't see what relevance of her testimony at the Oct. 15 hearing.

He said there is no mitigating value of Manglona's testimony to the panel because the court had already ruled that Govendo violated the applicable canons and rules of judicial conduct.

Asked by Manibusan about Naraja's testimony, Bradley said the same standards apply to the presiding judge.

In his reply, Govendo said it is absurd to have a hearing on Oct. 15 without witnesses whatsoever.

Govendo said Naraja is willing to testify about his character, while Manglona is the complaining witness.

He said confrontation of witness, who is against a person, is due process.

"I believe Judge Manglona will say good things about me. I'm the one taking the risk," he said.

Govendo said he wants to ask Manglona, "who started it all," what will be his punishment.

Govendo said he will ask Manglona if she was upset by the term "adios muchacho" or was offended with that.

"Believe me, I'm taking my chance. I'll call it a healing process," he said.

"I want to know what bothered you and what's my punishment and what other things bad you heard about me. And I'd think none," the judge pointed out.

Govendo said his case should have been handled in-house instead of disciplinary proceedings.

Bradley said the idea that Manglona "started it all" is wrong considering that she merely complained because she has the mandatory duty to complain.

"Govendo started it all with all his statements," Bradley said.

Manibusan reminded Govendo that if the idea is to abuse a witness then the panel will not going to allow that.

Govendo replied that he will not going to do like that.

Govendo cited he had been with Manglona in a ceremony and he really an urge to talk to her but he could not because of this pending [disciplinary] matter.

Govendo also stated that the panel should listen not just part but the entire tapes of the two adoption proceedings, the hearing of Roger Castillo, and the sentencing of Kurk Palacios.

Bradley agreed, saying that would be great for the panel to listen to the entire recordings of the proceedings.

Manibusan said he will recommend to the panel to listen to the entire recordings of those hearings.

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U.S. House of Representatives Candidate Debate
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall
Event begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.
Later arrivals must await a pause in the event before entering the hall.
Tickets: $10.00-in advance • $15.00-at the door • $5.00-students
Contact the Chamber office at 233-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com to purchase tickets.
To ensure everyone's enjoyment of the U.S. House of Representatives Candidate Debate, and out of courtesy for the candidates, we ask that attendees please observe these rules of etiquette:
■ Turn off (or set to silent mode) pagers and cellular phones. If you must talk on the phone, please step outside the hall. You will not be allowed to re-enter the hall until an intermission or until the end of the forum/debate.
■ Please refrain from talking during the forum/debate.
■ Do not use flash cameras during the forum/debate. You may use flash cameras at the intermission and after the end of the event.
■ Refreshments are available for purchase at the back of the hall. Please wait until a break in the question and answers before moving to the back of the hall to purchase refreshments.
■ Please do not applaud during the forum/debate. There will be a time to applaud at intermission and at the end of the event.
■ Audience members are not allowed to carry banners, hold signs or anything else that would distract the speakers. Audience members also may not display any promotional material supporting any candidate, including but not limited to buttons, hats, t-shirts, etc.
■ No smoking. ■ No betel nut chewing. ■ No alcohol consumption.
Hosted by Saipan Chamber of Commerce
Proceeds support the Chamber's scholarship fund and other educational endeavors.

Some 50 volunteers clean CK cemetery

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ed Tenorio with CNMI parolees and Manta Rays and other volunteers dumping loads of trash during last Saturday's cleanup of the Chalan Kanoa public cemetery.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cleanup of the Chalan Kanoa public cemetery was a success as around 50 volunteers came out to assist last Oct. 9.

The whole-day event aimed to clean up the entire area of the public cemetery in preparation for All Souls' Day next month.

Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch chair Rose Ada-Hocog said volunteers included members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion, CNMI Parolees, Koblerville and Dandan Neighborhood Watch Groups, and Torres Refrigeration staffers.

Hocog said a number of individuals also took part in the cleanup, including Joe Kaipat of the Division of Environmental Quality, Ed Tenorio, Lilian Tenorio, Dolores Nique, Joseph Torres, Bobby Torres, Lilly Manalili, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Reps. Joe Palacios and Eli Cabrera.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that some of the volunteers arrived with sandwiches and water to feed and keep the volunteers hydrated.

Hocog said the family of the late speaker Ben "Pacho" Sablan and Joe Rabauliman Jr. donated their trucks to assist in transporting the trash from inside the cemetery to the huge trash bin located at the entrance.

With the assistance of all these volunteers, Hocog said they were able to clean about 80-percent of the public cemetery.

"We would like to extend a Dankulo na Si Yuus Ma'ase and Ghilisou to all the volunteers who came and joined us," she said.

According to Hocog, they will meet again this Saturday, Oct. 16, to finish the cleanup project.

Hocog is once again asking for volunteers to participate in the cemetery cleanup from 8am to 4pm. Donations of food and drinks for the volunteers are also welcome.

For more information, text or call Hocog at 287-0818.

Volunteers from Saipan Southern High School pull out weeds and pick up trash.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two volunteers smile and gesture to the camera during the cleanup.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Just three of the some 50 volunteers took part in the cleanup.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A volunteer wipes his sweat after picking up trash during the cleanup.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dialogue on CDA Matters

hosted by:
CDA Board of Directors

Friday, October 15, 2010
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center
9:00am - 3:30pm

Live Video Telecast:
Rota – NMC Campus, Rm. 82
Tinian – NMC Campus, Rm. C

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Christy or Espie at the Commonwealth Development Authority at 234-6245 or 234-7145

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 11, 2000

PSS unveils construction plans of two high schools

The Public School System bared yesterday plans to fast-track two major Capital Improvement Projects to the House Committee on Education, vouching for a more direct role in the construction of the proposed Koblerville Junior High and Kagman High schools. Board of Education CIP Committee Chair Anthony Pellegrino told house leaders the school system is ready to take 75 percent direct responsibility of the undertaking compared to other infrastructure projects PSS has completed in the past. "We don't want to repeat the bad experiences we had with Kagman Elementary School," said Mr. Pellegrino in answer to Rep. Dino Jones' query on whether PSS is now in a much better position to meet the challenges of building two major schools simultaneously.

PSS bats for maintenance budget

Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino yesterday prodded the Legislature to provide the Public School System a general maintenance budget for the upkeep of its multi-million dollar school facilities in fresh efforts to save the school system's dilapidating structures. Mr. Pellegrino, during a meeting with members of the House Committee on Education, disclosed that PSS' allocated maintenance funds is now less than $300,000, barely enough to cover public schools requiring upgrades and enhancements. "We spend millions of dollars for the construction of new schools but we can't find money to maintain them. Some schools are already in a deplorable state," said Mr. Pellegrino. He added that PSS has never received adequate maintenance budget from the government, citing that the Legislature has somehow overlooked this aspect.

Oct. 11, 2001

Senate hopes to break budget deadlock

In a bid to break the deadlock on the $233-million budget bill, Senate President Paul A. Manglona yesterday sought the support of House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in forming a joint conference committee that would iron out the differences of the two chambers over the money measure. In a letter to the House Speaker, Manglona said that, although the lower chamber has yet to act on the Senate amendments to the Fiscal Year 2002 budget, forming a joint committee at this time would be appropriate, "as it is my understanding that the House is set to reject the Senate amendments." "I know that you will agree with me on the importance of both houses working together to pass this year's budget," he said. Manglona pointed out that, if both chambers fail to act on the new money measure by the November 3 elections, the lameduck Legislature will be tackling the budget bill with the additional Constitutional burden of having to secure at least three-fourths of the vote to pass the money measure.

'NMI needs non-voting delegate in Congress'

Washington Representative candidate Agnes M. McPhetres yesterday vowed to work her way into becoming CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the US Congress, if she wins in the November elections. McPhetres, running under the banner of the Democratic Party, addressed a group of students, teachers and staff of the Northern Marianas College, where she retired as president two years ago. Representing the CNMI as a non-voting delegate has far more advantages, she pointed out, citing that for one, it can save the local government a significant amount of dollars from keeping an office in Washington DC.

Oct. 11, 2002

Youths join hands in fight vs suicide

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday encouraged the Commonwealth's youths to join hands in the community-wide efforts to address concerns relating to the rising incidence of teen suicide in the Northern Marianas. The Governor spoke before about 90 students from various public and private schools on the island during the opening of the three-day First CNMI Youth Summit at the Saipan Diamond Hotel. He also talked about how he battled against peer pressure during his teenage years, as he made a pitch on values formation, which, he said, begins at home. Yesterday's opening ceremony was marked with testimonies of some of the Commonwealth's most respected political and social personalities, which were meant to inspire participating students from the Mount Carmel High School, the Marianas, Saipan Southern and Kagman high schools, as well as officials of the CNMI Youth Congress.

Health and wellness fair next month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Glimpses of Saipan and *Beach Road Magazine* will be hosting the 2010 Health and Wellness Fair.

The fair is slated for Nov. 20 from 10am to 4pm at the Civic Center tennis court in Susupe.

Among the goals of the 2010 Health and Wellness Fair are to increase visibility of health and wellness resources within the community and increase personal health awareness among participants.

The fair also aims to motivate participants to make positive health behavior changes and provide a variety of health screenings and educational materials.

In what would be a gathering of organizations that support health and wellness, the event features health screening booths, demonstrations and exhibits, information on healthy food preparation, proper nutrition, and diet and exercise.

Demonstrations and activities include first aid, aerobic dancing, martial arts, Tai Chi, massage therapy, and proper use of exercise equipment.

There will also be a corresponding poster contest which will go by the theme "Eat Better. Play Harder. Live Healthier. Learn Easier. Wellness is a way of life!"

The theme follows the motto of the Public School System website under "Food and Nutritional Services."

The 2010 Health and Wellness Fair will be an opportunity for the public to get feedback on health issues, sample nutritious foods and drinks, and listen to motivational speakers about importance of living a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families.

Organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate in this event to raise public awareness for a healthier, happier community.

For information, call 235-7645 or 483-3145.

TSL Foundation announces scholarships for NMC students

In its ongoing efforts to promote higher education among CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has announced that it is providing scholarships to 10 students of the Northern Marianas College.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship program will provide $1,000 per scholarship recipient that can be applied for the 2010-2011 school year (Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters). The scholarships will be awarded to five students pursuing an Associate's in Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management, and five students pursuing other degrees at NMC. In addition to hospitality management, the college offers degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and education.

"We recognize the central role that the Northern Marianas College plays in the personal and professional development of CNMI students—and, on a larger scale—the CNMI's workforce," said Dr. Tan Siu Lin. "We want to support that role by providing financial assistance to students who have the potential to excel academically and professionally."

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partners represent many different backgrounds and income levels. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

"We are very grateful to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for once again providing this scholarship," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "The financial assistance will definitely make a significant impact in helping students pursue their educational goals."

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The written essay will also play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Tan Siu Lin Scholarship is Nov. 15, 2010. Applications and additional information will be available for download on www.nmcnet.edu or www.tanholdings.com, or contact either the NMC's Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 ext. 1527 or Ed Arriola, Jr. at 233-8080. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Alexandra Davis who is celebrating her birthday today. May you have many more birthdays to come and God bless! From your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our Dad/Papa, Francisco "Sinbon" DLG Crisostomo, who celebrated his special day last Oct. 5. Advance happy birthday to our Mom/Grandma, Julie C. Crisostmo, who will celebrate her birthday on Oct. 21. Love from your family and friends in Arizona and Saipan.

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Jasmin Asia. Greetings from your mom and dad and your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 027 E 02, containing an area of approximately 4,530 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is JL Reyes Incorporated, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, and Leticia D. Reyes.

The President of the Corporation is Juan S. Reyes. The Vice President is Dolores R. Tudela. The Treasurer/Secretary is Leticia D. Reyes.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of general contracting, construction, offices, materials/supply warehouse, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 14, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN EKSTENSION INATKILAN TANO´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi halom i Seksiona 106 (a) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku guini na ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u rekumenda i ekstension ma'atkilan i pumalu na tano´ pupbliku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas Siha. Este na ekstension atkilon sinuhetu ni para u inapreba ni Lihislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda huyong gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerât siña manna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen propositu siha para i inatkilan tano´ pupbliku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, ni tinattitiyi ni pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapupblika

i. I ma´atkilan tåno´ pupbliku madeskribi komu Lot No. 027 E 02, ni kinensisiste i åria gi kåsi propiu 4,530 square meters, potlumenus mås, ni gaige giya Lower Base, Saipan. i kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku Siha para i rikonosimento.

ii. I manatkikila si JL Reyes Incorporated, i Corportion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Corporation si Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, yan si Leticia D. Reyes.

I Presidenten i Corporation si Juan S. Reyes. I Sigundo Presidente si Dolores R. Tudela I Tresurårio / Sekritåria si Leticia D. Reyes..

iii. I maproponen ekstension atkilon manigosio gi as Siñot Juan S. Reyes..

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i manmaneha bisnes gi general contracting, konstraksion, ofisina siha, materiåt/supply na warehouse, yan i mana'achule' n aktibidåt siha.

I teman kontråtan inekstenden atkilon sa´ (15) åños.

I maproponen atkilon kada såkkan gi durånten i tema sigun gi percentage gi ma'estima gi fair market value gi propiedåt, inengklulusu i tumatachu na estrokto siha.

v. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan ekstension atkilon siha siña machule´ gi ofisian Dipattamenton Tåno´ Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; pat i primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya´ na tinahguen propositu siha para atkila i suheto i tano´ pupbliku giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårion i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha debi na uma´aksepta i tinige´ infetmasion, opiñon, testamonion kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i maninteresão na pattida siha gi pat åntes di Oktubre 14, 2010 gi Ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ni manggaige giya Saipan, Rota pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.027 E 02, faawu sangaras limeigh me eliigh llapal (4, 530 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge JL Reyes Incorporated, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil samwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, me Leticia D. Reyes.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes. Arúscheyil Samwool nge
Dolores R. Tudela. Treasurer/Secretary nge Leticia D. Reyes

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley me mwóghut ágheli bisinisil pwol (contracting), construction, offices, peiraghil warehouse, me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

Pomwol akkilon ye llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Ottuubre (October) 14, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Rebels without a chance

For many years now, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—guerrillas who have waged civil war against the government since the 1960s—have been falling behind the times. Living as they do in Colombia's vast forests, the FARC troops, made up mostly of poor peasants who are given guns, a bit of food and a smattering of pseudo-communist ideology, are often the last to get important updates about world events.

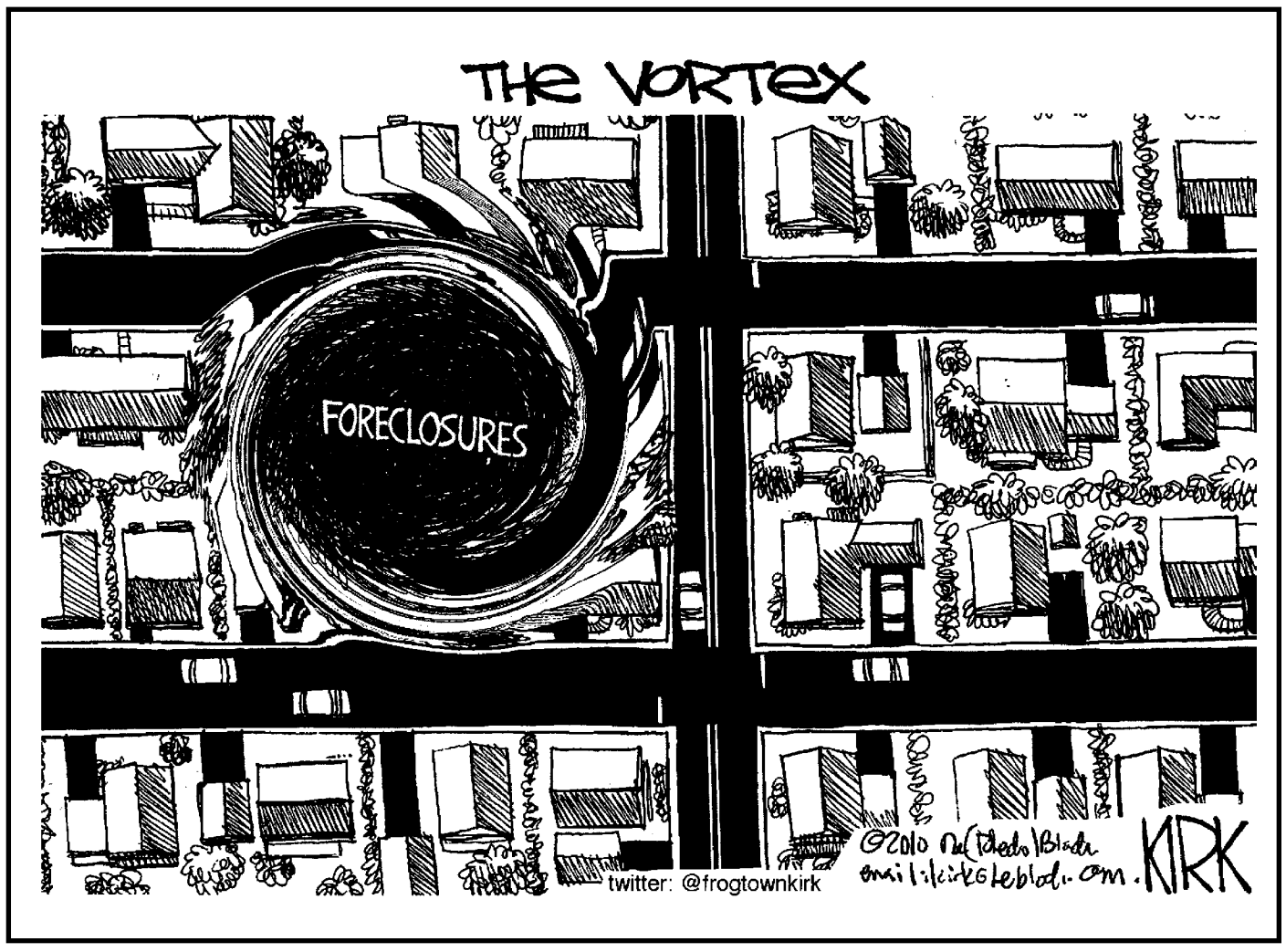
For example, several American military contractors who were held hostage by the FARC until their rescue in 2008 recounted their futile efforts to convince their captors that the Panama Canal was no longer in the possession of the United States, or that the real reason for the U.S. embargo of Cuba was not to keep Americans from fleeing there. So it's not entirely surprising that the FARC seems to have missed a big story that broke last week: the news of its own demise.

Victor Julio Suarez Rojas, the top FARC military commander also known by the aliases Jorge Briceno and Mono Jojoy, was killed Sept. 22 when the Colombian military launched a massive assault on his hide-out in the Macarena mountains, pounding it with bombs dropped from dozens of aircraft and surrounding it with hundreds of troops. Nevertheless, a few days later, in a show of tiresome bravado, the guerrillas issued a statement announcing that despite Suarez's demise, they would redouble their effort to overthrow the government and would replace their fallen leader.

The Colombian government had a different take. In explaining the importance of the raid to North Americans, President Juan Manuel Santos, who was in New York at the time, likened Suarez to Osama bin Laden. The comparison, although not 100 percent applicable, nonetheless conveys a sense of the rebel's elusiveness, his cruel disregard for human life and the outsize terror he struck in ordinary Colombians. Under his leadership, the FARC kidnapped and killed thousands. A hard-liner who joined the FARC at age 12, Suarez was seen by many as incapable of evolving from a brutal military strategist into what the rebels need now: a leader who can negotiate peace. His death, Santos said, heralds "the beginning of the end" for the FARC.

Of course, it can still cause harm. But the Colombian government, backed by U.S. aid, equipment and advisors, has the upper hand in terms of military might and, now, the psychological edge. The FARC has said that it theoretically would be open to resolving the conflict through diplomacy, but it refuses to repudiate violence in the meantime. After last week's raid, it should be clear that laying down its weapons and releasing its hostages is the only way it can "win."

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times.



Those that understand change and those that still don't understand change

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

As election time for the new Washington Delegate draws nearer, I find it interesting to hear two differing opinions about what the CNMI's relationship should be with the United States. One group of young and forward looking people (Group A) tell me that they see a new and exciting relationship between the United States and us. The other group (Group B) composed of older citizens who recall the "good old T.T. days" are crying that we are being colonized by the United States and are being taken advantage of. Let's look at both sides.

Group B (the older folks) are proud that they negotiated a treaty with the U.S. called the Covenant. They cite Section 601(a) wherein all taxes collected in the CNMI will remain here, the same as in Guam. Section 602 adds that our government "may by local law impose such taxes, in addition to those imposed under section 601, as it deems appropriate to those imposed under Section 601 and provide for the rebate of any taxes received by it…."

Then in Section 703 (b), the Covenant states that "There will be paid into the Treasury of the CNMI, to be expended to the benefit of the people thereof as the government may by law prescribe, the proceeds of all customs duties and federal income taxes derived from the Northern Marianas Islands…." In other words, we can keep all the money we collect here. No money will be sent to the United States Treasury. However, in addition, we can receive all the money that the U.S. will send us without having to repay any of it back. Wow! This is a deal!

Group B continues their argument by stating that the U.S. government "will assist the government of the Northern Marianas Islands in its efforts to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people…and to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government."

In other words the U.S. must do more and more regardless of any responsibility on our part. They owe it to us. Group B insists that the United States has not fulfilled it obligations to assist us reach a higher economic standard of living and is not meeting the financial needs of local government. We must insist on larger handouts regardless of what we do. All the bad things happening here are the fault of the United States! We have no responsibility! They owe it to us!

Group B continues insisting that the U.S. obtained our lands for very low-rental: two thirds in Tinian, a little on Saipan, and all of Farallon de Medinilla. Their attitude is that there is no need to feel humble before the U.S. because they have failed us. They maintain that the voting members of the U. S. Congress must be reminded that the CNMI has kept its promises under our Covenant. (Frankly to do what, I don't know.) But the U.S., has not. Therefore we must be grateful to and humbled by the wisdom of our own people, the people who negotiated our Covenant. Group B still feels that the United States owes us and owes us.

While it is true the negotiators of our Covenant did an excellent job, but times have changed. What the United States gave us before and what is reality now is totally different. Unless we accept this fact, we stand to lose all that they negotiated. The U.S. and the CNMI are in a different ballgame now with different rules and with different players.

It is astonishing that some of our people still think in this manner. We have to question what has happened to their sense of time and reality. They seem to have put their heads in the sand and cannot see the changes about them.

Let's look at Group A, composed of young and forward-looking individuals, who understand that times have changed and the rules are not the same. Also they look around the islands and see the tremendous generosity and influence of the U.S. They understand that world power struggles have vastly changed from the early '80s. The U.S. needs us, and we need the U.S. as never before.

Group A also has looked over the borders of the CNMI into the other Pacific Islands who have not been fortunate as we to become closely aligned with the U.S. and see the disparity between us and them. Are we better off or worse than our Pacific neighbors for our close relationship with the U.S.? Seriously! Close your eyes and picture us without the United States as our firm ally. What would the CNMI look like and be?

What I see between Group A and Group B is a major philosophical gap about political reality and political dreams of the past. Unless the older citizens wake up and understand what is happening, the CNMI may become a major loser. Hopefully the youth of our nation can persuade them to understand today. This is 2010, not the 1970s and '80s.

My advice to all the youth who understand what is happening is to be "respectfully disrespectful" to our elders and convince them to join hands with us as we all march together into the future. Talk to them that this is a new era. I truly believe that you the youth under-

See CHANGE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Solomonic decision

By PAUL MANGLONA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Paul Manglona is the Senate president of the 17th Legislature. This is the speech he delivered during Friday's Senate session when the upper chamber passed the fifth and final version of the fiscal year 2011 budget bill.

When I spoke here at the last senate session two days ago, the Commonwealth government did not have a budget for fiscal year 2011 and it was day five of no work for government workers. That night, the senate passed the newly proposed budget bill, House Bill 17-122, HD2 in the form of senate substitute one. This is the fifth budget bill where the primary difference between the House and Senate version is the work hour reduction. The House proposed 16 hours and the Senate counter offered with 12 hours.

I know that the Commonwealth people are suffering. Even without a reduction in work hours, the Commonwealth people are suffering today. The high cost of gas, commodities, goods, and services, as well as the exorbitant cost of CUC utilities has caused many people to do without certain basic necessities. The Commonwealth people are suffering. Economic growth in the near future looks bleak. The Commonwealth is facing the worst economic crisis ever. And our financial system was on the verge of collapse.

The governor and the House continue to insist that a 16-work hour reduction is the answer to all our financial problems. The Senate has fought hard these past six weeks to cap the reduction in work hours to protect the buying power of the people. With a 16-work hour reduction, the people will struggle to buy basic necessities, pay their bills, mortgages and loans, and pay their CUC utilities. The senate stands firm that a 16-work hour reduction is too drastic for the people at this time.

The Senate offered alternatives to drastically reducing work hours and furloughing employees. The senate offered revenue generating measures including increasing sin taxes and poker fees, imposing sugar taxes, and reducing the rebate percentage by a minimal amount for a limited amount of time. These alternative revenue-generating measures could generate the millions of dollars necessary to offset the budget shortfall. Unfortunately, the House rejected all of the Senate's revenue generating measures and insisted on passing a budget with a 16 work hour reduction.

In addition to the revenue-generating measures, the Senate offered to implement eight-hour work reduction for 90 days. The Senate also passed legislative initiatives that: authorized the reduction of salaries of elected officials and judges during austerity measures; offered retirement incentives that did not hurt the retirement fund; enforced better revenue collection; and redefined long-term interest of 99 years under Article XII. And all these measures are still pending in the House.

In the meantime, the hundreds of non-essential government employees have not reported to work since Oct. 1. Today, these government employees have lost five days of work due to the Legislature's failure to pass a budget for fiscal year 2011. These people will not be able to make up the lost hours of the past week. These employees may not be able pay to their bills in the next few weeks due to the loss of work days during this government shutdown. These affected people are suffering each day waiting in vain for the legislature to pass a budget. Many people do not care about the provisions of the budget anymore so long as they are able to go back to work and earn their living.

This dilemma reminds me of the story about King Solomon and the two mothers claiming a baby. When King Solomon had to decide which woman was the mother of the child, he used his wisdom of a mother's selfless love. Solomon decreed that the child be cut into two and divided between the two women. He knew that the true mother would never agree to her child being harmed. Just as he thought, the true mother with the selfless love for her child spoke up giving her child to the other woman.

So tonight, as the King Solomon story demonstrates, the Senate will make the sacrifice and approve the House's demand of a 16-work hour reduction for the Commonwealth people. The Senate stands firm that a 16-hour cut is too drastic to at this time. However, the Senate wants to end the people's immediate suffering by passing a budget so that the people can go back to work and resume their normal lives.

A constituent gave me a quote from Ayn Rand, which says "the hardest thing to explain is the glaringly evident which everybody has decided not to see." As I mentioned earlier, the Senate offered numerous solutions to the budget shortfall, which the House ignored at every instance. There are no winners, only losers if the senate were to continue the battle between the two houses. The people are the losers in this battle and to further delay the passage of the budget would mean prolonging the people's agony.

I can say with confidence that the senate did all it could to protect the people from the drastic 16-work hour reduction but the House leadership would not compromise. The House leadership should understand that the Legislature is a separate and coequal branch of government and that it is the function of the Legislature to make laws and appropriate money.

But the work of the Legislature does not end tonight. We have our work cut out for us. I challenge the members of the House to work day and night for the next 90 days to ensure that the there is enough revenue to: pay for critical government expenses and address the Retirement Fund Liabilities; pass revenue generating measures to cover the budget shortfall; and control non-essential hiring. Additionally, we can audit more departments and divisions to determine if they are over-staffed or necessary. An independent firm has already audited the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety. These are just a few of the issues that the legislature must address in the near future.

Therefore, my dear colleagues, I respectfully ask for your support in passing this 16-hour reduction bill. I know your passion and commitment to our people, but we need to end this government shutdown for the good of the Commonwealth.

I want to thank the members of this body; the House Minority Leader, former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente; and the other minority members, especially Congresswoman Terry Santos, who gave up her chairmanship in order to do what is right. Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your efforts and your support in these last several weeks, and the staff of the Legislative Bureau for assisting the members. I also want to thank the Commonwealth people for their patience and resolve during this trying time for our government.

CHANGE

From Page 10

stand and will make the necessary changes. And maybe—just maybe—the elders will also understand.

I am reminded of the Bob Dylan lyrics from his song:

Times they are a changing

Come mothers and fathers, throughout the land, And don't criticize what you don't understand. Your sons and daughters are beyond your command. Your old road is rapidly agin'. Please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand for the times they are a-changin'.

I realize that some of you readers may not agree with my thinking. But unless we understand what the U.S. has in store for us and decide to cooperate, we will become big time losers. Instead of negative reactions, we should try more earnestly to understand the game plan. Let us compromise, not engage in confrontation, with the United States. We adopted each other. We are family now. Instead of criticizing our "Big Brother" let's examine what we are doing and assess how it can be improved.

This is my understanding of what the United States is planning to do in the CNMI and Guam. Recall that in 1945, Japan and the U.S. engaged in a devastating World War. Both the CNMI and Guam were Japanese occupied territories, which the U.S. fought bitterly and at great cost to free. At that time Hawaii was the frontline defense.

With the constant war-mongering and saber rattling discussions heard so frequently in Asia today, the U.S. has no choice but to reposition itself closer to Asia. Read closely the feelings displayed daily between China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea—North and South. Consider the move from Okinawa the thousands of U.S. troops. Why is it being done? Add all of these up and we come to the conclusion—the CNMI and Guam are the Hawaii of the 1940s. We are the first line of defense for the United States!

Go to a map of the Pacific area. Find Hawaii. Then find Guam and the CNMI. Now go to the countries mentioned above such as Japan, China, and Korea. Now measure the distance from Hawaii to those countries. Then measure the distance from Guam and the CNMI to the same countries. Notice how much shorter the distances from us to Asia than from Hawaii? Get the picture?

We have a great future ahead of us, but we must understand the rules. We must understand change. Let us open our eyes and see the bright rainbow shining over our heads as we march steadfastly into the future. May God bless us all!

Bahu Fondun iya Marianas

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Ikinalamten rinikohen kontribusiion tax mampos chafleg. I marikokohe pagu na kontribusion para este na sakan menos $11.5 miyon pesos. Hinegse este ni tinahoñg fondu para operasion gobietno para otru sakan poku mas o'menos $12.5 miyon pesos.

Este na chinatsaga pinadesen siglu. Enteru i mas man-fuetsudu na ekonomia gi tanu man-pinalopu nu este na chinatsaga. Giya Amerika, guaha 15 miyon na tautau esta pagu mantai chechu.

Siempre lokue ta padese este gi ti apmam yan pagu. Ti siña na para u fan ma-emplelea i gobietnu mas ke humahalom ginen kontribusion tax. Este na asuntu mampos sumen nachatsaga para manadan familia guine.

Obligasion tat kumu primet gima familia, sasyan, edukasion yan nessidat famaguon siha man-inaminasa nu este na mattiru.

Guaha buente kampo para ta faisen i federat u fan ayuda gi bandan planon ma-areglan ekonomia. Gaige este gi papa' i kontratan i Covenant kumu obligasion federat. Gi mismu tiempu debi tana' fan ma'agim korasonta gi manera 'nai para ta bisita este na attikulu yan siha.

Presisu na u guaha lokue inadahe gi todu humalom gi fondu para setbision publiku. Muñga hit bumanidosuye i asuntu gi dispetdisiu. Ta fan na'sahñge para 'an ha gacha hit hafa na ira guine gi karera mona. Ta limitte todu bandan gastu deste halom gima' familia huyuñg esta'i offisinan publiku. Mas man-libianuña hit gi modun linala' odut ke apacha'.

Yangin ta rinueba satton na inadahe yan pas gi relasionta gi todu chechu' linahyan, siempre ta choneg gi un' banda sensian imbidiu pot para ta konduse halom i mañge' na kustumbren inafamauleg. Gi hilu este mas guaha inakomprende. Taya' presisu na hita yan hita para ta fan a'achachag pot tres granun pugas gi halom latan petroliu.

■■■

Dos semana malofan, estabayu Honolulu pot petsonat na asuntu. Hu lie' un' lukau (parade) mafanana'an Hawaiian Festival. Megai tautau mañaunau ya pattsipau guihe na selebrasion.

I rasan tautau entre mesklau na Amerikanun ginen lagu, Polynesians, Micronesians, Filipino, Chinu, Choseñg, Japones yan otru siha grupon tautau.

Sumen namagof i espiritun "Aloha" mientras sige guatu gi lugat feria I likau. Todu klasen sasyan ni man-ma-adotna man-ma'lag na flores mangaige lokue guihe.

Tat ti chumachaleg magof ya sige umesalau yan man-alof "Aloha" para I man-e'ega'. Kada rasan tautau gai selebrasion 'nai todus man-mattu para uma-abiba i okasion. Ti hu huñgog kuentos rinichasa gi otru, lau motmut espiritun "Aloha" gi todus i mañaunau. Mafattu gi hinasoghu na dañkulu lokue' i natibu guine korasoña gi bandan inafamauleg yan antau na relasion gi prohimuña ke hemunos de rasa.

Sige umekuñgog-yu man-bonitu na kantan Hawaiian ni madobla finu gi kuatru bos: tenor, soprano, alto yan bass. Mas nina' gatbu i selebrasion 'na kinenduse magof yan bonito na kantan Hawaiian siha. I ma'lag na koronan flores ni mana' fan apalopu gi agaga' niha, i difirientes kulot trahi gi entalu famalaoan yan lalahe, kontodu famaguon. Todu klase putahen na'niha guaha deste hinetnon babue, linemog sunen agaga', yan todu klasen fina mames.

Gi uttimu, man-etnon ya mañganta un' sunidon Hawaii 'nai mao'onra i esta man-hanau ni pumipet siha gi tutuhon yan ayu i mangaige pagu ni chumahlau obligasion ma'gas. Sumen namagof i onru para i man-mofo'na gi hilu humiddena agradesimientu yan felis na diniseha para i todus.

■■■

Masoda' un' amku' gi chatagmag sige ha sinset un' lapida. Mafaisen ni dos saki hafa bidadaña. Ilegña: "Esta mas ke trenta años deste ke matai-yu ya ni unu muna' keke dinanche naan-hu guine na lapida". A`Saina na finatane' gi amku. Chupon i dos saki!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲85° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

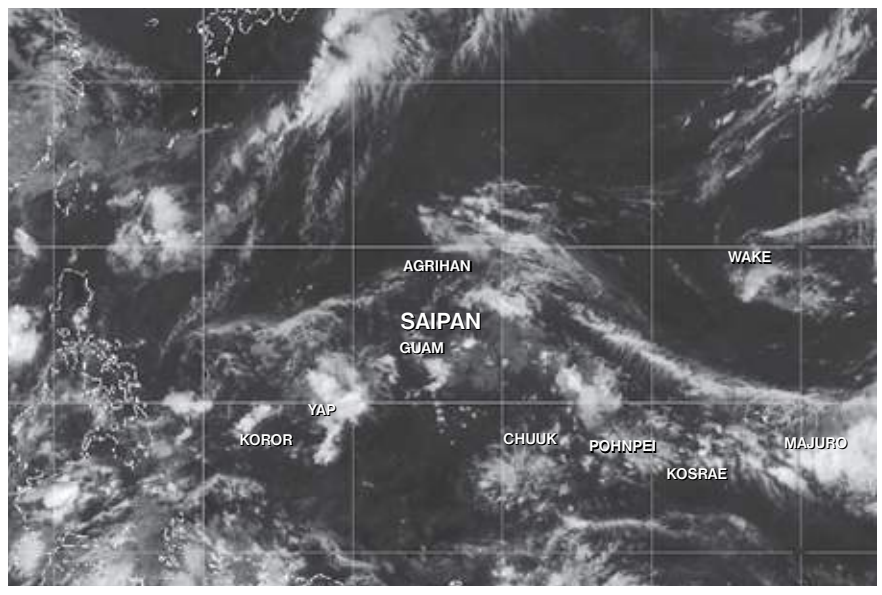
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Sunny	▲61	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼63
Paris	Sunny	▲63	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼63
Rome	Rain	▲68	▼56
Salem	Sunny	▲61	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲71	▼60
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼67
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southward from 23N150E to Saipan then curves southwestward to end near 10N130E. Scattered showers are found over Koror between 15N and 6N from 130E to 137E and over the Marianas between 17N and 12N from 144E to 150E. An upper-level low centered at 18N169E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Wake Island between 21N and 15N from 167E to 175E. Another upper-level low is centered at 24N145E. Scattered showers are located southwest of Minami Tori Shima between 24N and 18N from 146E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 5N152E to 8N162E farther east. Scattered showers are found east of the Marshall Islands within 50 miles of a line from 7N173E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:18 AM	8:49 PM
Tuesday	10:17 AM	9:45 PM
Wednesday	11:12 AM	10:41 PM
Thursday	12:03 PM	11:35 PM
Friday	12:49 PM	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

The Columbian connection

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

If for anything, Columbus Day reminds us that the human race consists of nomadic immigrants in many parts of the world. The Genoa navigator was looking for another route to spicy India, launching Spanish colonization in the process, naming Hispaniola (now the Dominican Republic and Haiti), misnaming pre-Columbian American natives as Indios, and leading to Amerika wunderkind and the Bermuda triangle of our lives.

Columbus opened European colonization of the New World. Norse Leif Ericson settled 500 years earlier in the cold; DNA traces native Americans as originating from the steppes of Mongolia. Too bad the pre-Columbian natives did not have enough sense to require "green cards" for the new immigrants, for the children of Europe would later do that to curtail Chinese presence in the American West. The history of immigration law in the United States began with barring Sino presence whose ancestors had traversed the land 12K years earlier and later be genocidal victims to practices of racial discrimination.

Controversial David Menzies' book 1421 claims that the Ming Admiral Zheng He's armada explored worlds beyond Cathay; he might have actually circumnavigated the globe, a dubious claim at best, but points to navigators like Columbus and Magellan possessing maps of places beyond the familiar lands explored by Iberian ported vessels.

Two pain-in-the-arse characters in our time, both veterans of the Tiananmen incident of 1989, are in the news. Internationally, Liu Xiaobo who is in jail again, just received the Nobel Peace Prize, to the great consternation of Beijing. The chain smoking academic is doomed to be a prick in the side of the Chinese establishment the rest of his life, even if he finds his way to Yale, Harvard, or Princeton, in which case, he can easily land a lectureship while being a royal pain to the Politburo.

Not so with Saipan's Shixu Huang, our erstwhile rafter for Guam who had been sentenced to prison for pointing out that travelling from one section of the United States to another (Rota to Guam) should not violate immigration laws. He was a Chinese inmate so survival is a premium. But the children of Columbus wrote and implemented immigration proceedings, and Huang will just have to wait for his day in court to see whether the tectonic shudders of immigration law can be nudged a volcanic shift. Meanwhile, a U.S. tourist visa, costing $30K 10 years ago from tongs, is now worth $50K!

Little Italy in NYC will be a festive day today in memory of its beloved son Cristofarro and the vino in the coppa will be overflowing. And rightly so, for the celebration of the boundless curiosity, inquiry, and exploration of the human spirit that the navigator represents is what we need to face the challenges of our day.

Consider the fate of the planet, which across the international divide is still Go to Work Earth Day 10.10.10. A fellow Methodist (who is a reason for delaying my membership resignation from the religious body) Bill McKibben wrote Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet. McKibben has taken the movie Network TV anchor's stance of being mad and having have had enough (current Ed Propst posture). Eaarth follows previous books including End of Nature. McKibben convincingly posits that the earth we knew is no longer the earth we have, thus the new name.

Anyway, McKibben is coordinating the largest effort to "Get to Work" on climate change spearheading 350.org in the 10.10.10 efforts of today. I am not sure if local bookstores have a copy of Eaarth but I certainly hope librarian John Gonzales will have it in his list.

For now, we find ourselves in a time of creativity and innovation. McKibben may be sad at the turn of events but he is not in despair, and that finally is what the Columbian tradition to me represents. Cristofarro made five trips and those trips changed the fate of the earth forever.

Liu and Huang are just fighting for the integrity of their sanity, not to mention survival. We are sympathetic and familiar with their plight (though I had never been in jail). I once brought my Canada-passport traveling two-year old to Honolulu so I could leave her and her U.S.-passport traveling sister with their grannies in the Big Island while my wife and I attended a mainland conference. I, with my green card, was remanded to the U.S. Marshall for bringing an unidentified alien into the country, and was told to report to the federal office in Chicago.

A Filipino who did not apply for citizenship the day he qualified was an anomaly to the then INS, so I was invariably stopped at the border for a careful scrutiny of my papers. Being an Ilocano cheapo, my daughter qualified to travel with Philippine, U.S., and Canadian passports, and Canada offered the cheapest passa porte so we obliged.

McKibben is calling on the powers of China, India, and the United States, the three major culprits in the global warming process to change their carbon-emitting course. Working on their governments has been a slow and frustrating exercise. McKibben hopes we would get more mileage with citizens getting in the act!

And that's where my exploring Columbus comes in. Set sail. Let's get to work!

Letters to the Editor

Thanks speaker and a political note

I mentioned in a previous letter that if we don't vote ourselves out of this mess then divine intervention was our only hope. Well thank God for answering my prayer, the speaker is not going to run for office and he even intends to step down from the leadership of the lower house. I have studied the political arena from the time of the conception of the Commonwealth and I can say with a great deal of certainty the Froilan administration was one of the worst in the CNMI's history only surpassed by the present administration. So what did voters expect when they put the two most unsuccessful governors in the same party and same administration—you only have to look at our poor state of existence to know the answer.

The Froilan administration started our troubles with the feds and now the CNMI is reaping what he sowed during his tenure as governor—it's called federalization. He spent millions fighting the feds with lobbyists instead of addressing minimum wage when we had the money and stopping the influx of alien workers. But we voted for it when we elected him—voters must get smarter. Except for the brief period of tranquility with the feds when Tenorio and Babauta was governor, the present administration has picked up right where he left off fighting the feds with lawsuits and now we have federalization looming everywhere and in every sector of life. But there's more, the Democratic Party, which is really in ICU on life support owes a great deal of its poor political health to Speaker Froilan. The Democrats still haven't recovered from his involvement in the party even though he left years ago jumping ship until he could get lucky enough to be elected again figuratively—and it worked fooling voters again—the "don't be fooled" signs were real!

The present administration has been in control for five years and for five years our economy has continued to nose dive and the only news we got from Capitol Hill was we were not at rock bottom yet and casinos are our only hope and now we don't even have a government. What did voters think would happen when they elected Froilan under the ruling party in the Legislature? Now he has allowed the budget to cause the shutdown of our government and he as speaker is ultimately responsible for the CNMI's budget. I'm sure that I'm not alone in the belief that we have already hit rock bottom and the only thing left is to be buried if our economy is not resuscitated—I have to laugh to keep from crying.

On a political note: I'm sure the average student and voter can easily predict what is going to happen to the Covenant Party in the delegate election, the next midterm and the general election and Speaker Froilan will be partly responsible. Besides, everyone that knows anything about the politics of the Covenant Party should realize that it is Fitial's Party and once his term is complete that will be the end of that—thank God!!!

The CNMI needs a strong two-party system to increase our chances for success and selecting the best candidates. The slew of independents in the last delegate race and other races is a clear example of the great divide between the people of the CNMI. Synergy is intangible but is also very relevant for progress in a society, family matters, business ventures, educational phenomenon, and progress in general. Synergy can never be created as long as we the people are all pulling and pushing in separate directions and until we have a great leader who can pull us all back together again to create some synergy we will continue to maintain and ignorantly promote the perpetuation of the social, economic and political conundrums that we presently face.

And FYI, to those of you, especially the cyber rats, who don't understand journalism, I am attacking the speaker because he is a "public official" and he must be held accountable to the people. I am doing everything I can to educate voters because in the words of Chris Tucker, I don't never ever, ever, ever want to see these hard times again! But we still have some journalism idiots who like to attack me instead of presenting their rational on the issue or a solution. I know the majority of readers don't partake in this kind of behavior and I hope that any response will be constructive and focused on the public official and not me as a citizen who is accountable to no one but God, my family, my boss and of course, the money lenders like most of us.

We voted ourselves into this mess by electing officials like the speaker and we must start voting ourselves out of this mess starting with the delegate election—we the people can't afford to wait for the mid-term and general election. The delegate election is the second most important political race on our government's agenda. There are only two elected officials that can speak for all the people of the CNMI—the governor and the U.S. Delegate to Congress, that's just how important it is for voters to send our very best with the best chance for success in Congress and Washington politics.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Politricks

When the new 17th Legislature came in, I expected a new era of change. Newly branded folks that will meticulously work their fingers to the fullest in ensuring the people of this great commonwealth will be served well. We never lost sight of anything that will come before us. We stayed focused and determined that our voices will finally be heard this time around.

Unfortunately, I was dead wrong. For the past decade, repeatedly, we had never said for anyone to be sacrificial lambs or, for us average citizens, be served on a silver platter. Like everyone else, I envisioned the CNMI to flourish once again and to see a boost in morale on people's faces. Just a little wishful comfort after years of sour politics, sadly, it is still happening.

The folks on the hill still have not closed the books of the past. We seem to have our depressive state circling and circling without cease. I asked, "What is needed for this current lawmaking body to reach a consensus?" Really, this is not a time of political rivalry. People's lives and welfare is at stake. A thousand jobs lost equates to four thousand. In a family of four, or more, without bare necessities. By comparison, a legislator's suspended months' worth of salary is just chunk change (Hardly a dent in deep-pockets!), compared to the countless many who live paycheck to paycheck. Why did the legislators have to work on the fiscal budget expeditiously at "zero hour?" This could have all been prevented and business will be as usual if they had just acted on it months before. Like any other lawman, the attitude is typical of most, if not all. The so-called I don't care attitude, which I have already adjusted to, is still a norm, no matter who is on board.

When it's campaign season time, we saw diction and articulateness in an aspirant's personal form, but to what cost, it's the usual rubbish and rhetorical, past and present aspiring law-making liar. Then, whenever there is a newly elected official of my choosing is on board, I thought to myself that this individual will rule with an iron fist and will deliver the word of the people. Willing to throw the book at anyone who thinks that questionable topics would not benefit the under privilege. I was still dead wrong. We were sold time and time again to the devil's game. Same ol' "politricks" in the good ol' Marianas. Why can't they walk the talk? Why they ran? Respect? Having your name engraved on a plaque? A name for themselves? What? Where is the promise they said they would uphold? Surely, this is politricks at it's finest form.

As weariness starts to set in our minds and the future of the CNMI is in peril, more than ever, we deeply are in need of a potential bail out solution that, off course, it is just a pigment of my imagination. If this is reality, then what is the 2012 fiscal budget be like? The government must concede that the system is broken and go back to the drawing board and start all over. The experts are not of pricey firms off-island, it's the intelligent minds who offer simple solutions that don't even work for the government. I think it is time for the practice of constitutional rights to impeach these incompetent high-rollers. But even with impeachment, nothing but silence in the chambers. Who will vote who off? Maybe there's a need of a popular initiative to change the present law. Remember, A weak law-making body always constitutes to a weak government. How much more can we tolerate this type of harsh punishment being imposed on the innocents? Where do we see ourselves 10 years from today? If this could all be a dream.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao

Business

America moves on from spill; coast feels abandoned

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—About 800 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Dave Edmonds is struggling to remind people about the BP oil spill.

There aren't many magazine covers with photos of oil-drenched birds now that BP has capped its massive gusher at the bottom of the sea. People aren't looking online for information about the historic spill like they were a few weeks ago.

So Edmonds, who lives on the Delaware coast, has started a nonprofit organization to keep the disaster on people's minds with a website and social networking campaign.

"Awareness has dropped. People don't really care about the people who were affected. They don't care about the fish life," said Edmonds, founder of Taking Back the Gulf.

For Gulf residents fighting for economic survival, a nation's short attention span is deeply unsettling, especially with oil still washing ashore. Yet it's unclear whether Americans are turning their attention elsewhere, or whether it's just the media that have.

Either way, people like Chef Chris Sherrill feel abandoned.

"It's amazing how quickly the American public forgot that this was one of the worst manmade disasters in U.S. history," he said. His wedding catering and event business in Gulf Shores, Ala., is teetering because few brides are still coming to the beach for weddings.

The slight isn't necessarily intentional. Walking with his girlfriend in a park in Des Moines, Iowa, Michael Gauthier said he wonders about the oil's lingering impact on the environment, and he fears for Gulf residents.

AP

In this Oct. 8, 2010 photo, Chris Sherrill, owner of Staycations Beach Weddings, stands inside the storefront he planned on opening before the Gulf oil spill slowed business and funding, in Gulf Shores, Ala.

"It's not in your face every day so you forget about it. Who doesn't have bills to pay and work to go to? Who has time to think about what's going on in Louisiana?" said Gauthier, 26.

What's going on is the continued arrival of oil washing ashore, although in lesser amounts than during the summer. Dire predictions of environmental Armageddon have yet to materialize, but there's also no consensus on how badly the ecosystem has suffered.

At first, no one could agree on how much oil was spilling into the Gulf; now there's disagreement over how much remains. A commission this week faulted Barack Obama's administration for multiple missteps, including an effort to block scientists from telling the public how bad the spill could be early on.

"If someone could say it will affect this, our shrimp are going to be poisoned for 10 years, people would think this is a bigger deal maybe," said Scott Peterson, 37, also of Des Moines.

Peterson's sentiment was echoed by Kathy Yoder, whose family works a farm in Washington, Maine. She said people may be dismissing the spill because the impacts don't seem as devastating as first predicted.

"What irritates me is people act like it's all gone because it's not floating on top of the water," she said. "I'm like, 'Hello, there's plenty of oil under the surface.'"

Recent research also raises the question of whether the spill is being overlooked outside the Gulf region, or if information on recent developments is just harder to come by. A Pew Research Center study found that only 1 percent of news coverage was dedicated to the spill last month, down from 22 percent during the height of the crisis.

However, a separate Pew survey found that 34 percent of the people responding to a poll in mid-September said they were still very interested in the spill—making it the top news item that week in terms of public interest.

Up to 40 states plan inquiry into foreclosure data

WASHINGTON (AP)—The attorneys general of up to 40 states plan to announce soon a joint investigation into banks' use of flawed foreclosure paperwork.

A person briefed on the investigation said Saturday night that an announcement could come as early as Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was not yet public.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller will lead the investigation. Miller already has been leading multistate reviews of questionable foreclosure documents.

A joint investigation by 40 states would further escalate pressure on banks to widen their suspensions of foreclosures. On Friday, Bank of America became the first bank to halt foreclosures in all 50 states.

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Ally Bank's GMAC Mortgage unit and PNC Financial have stopped foreclosures in the 23 states where foreclosures must be approved by a judge.

The plans for a joint inquiry were reported earlier by Bloomberg News.

A furor has been growing as evidence has surfaced that mortgage lenders have been using flawed court papers to evict homeowners. That's led state and federal officials to ramp up pressure on the mortgage industry.

Officials in several states have either announced they are investigating potential legal violations or have called for a freeze on foreclosures.

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray was the first to sue a mortgage company over the issue. He sued Ally last week, claiming the company's employees signed and filed false documents to mislead courts. Ally says the company's practices were neither fraudulent nor deceitful.

Attorney General Eric Holder has said the federal government is looking into the issue.

And Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, said he would hold a hearing on the issue next month.

Problems with foreclosure procedures were discussed during two recent conference calls between officials from the Treasury Department, Department of Housing and Urban Development, White House and other agencies, according to an Obama administration official who spoke Saturday on condition of anonymity because the meetings were private.

Finance leaders fail to resolve currency dispute

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global finance leaders failed Saturday to resolve deep differences that threaten the outbreak of a full-blown currency war.

Various nations are seeking to devalue their currencies as a way to boost exports and jobs during hard economic times. The concern is that such efforts could trigger a repeat of the trade wars that contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s as country after country raises projectionist barriers to imported goods.

The International Monetary Fund wrapped up two days of talks with a communique that pledged to "deepen" its work in the area of currency movements, including conducting studies on the issue.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said the rising economic tensions reflected a weak global recovery.

"A lack of growth accompanied by high unemployment is having consequences," Zoellick told reporters at a news conference concluding the IMF-World Bank meetings. "There is a danger that countries will turn inward and, as a result, international cooperation falters. This could be dangerous."

The communique essentially papered-over sharp differences on currency policies between China and the United States.

The Obama administration, facing November elections where high U.S. unemployment will be a top issue, has been ratcheting up pressure on China to move more quickly to allow its currency to rise in value against the dollar.

American manufacturers contend the Chinese yuan is undervalued by as much as 40 percent and this has cost millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs by making Chinese goods cheaper in the United States and U.S. products more expensive in China.

China has allowed its currency, the yuan, to rise in value by about 2.3 percent since announcing in June that it would introduce a more flexible exchange rate. Most of that increase has come in recent weeks after the Obama administration began taking a more hardline approach and the U.S. House passed tough legislation to impose economic sanctions on countries found to be manipulating their currencies.

AP

China's Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao, right, and Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders talk during the Development Committee meeting at the IMF World Bank 2010 Annual Meetings in Washington, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mercedes recalls more than 85,000 cars

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mercedes-Benz is recalling about 85,000 of its 2010 and 2011 cars because of potential steering problems. The luxury automaker says in a report to federal regulators that the steering systems in the cars "may fail due to the loss of power steering fluid." Mercedes-Benz says that if that happens, drivers "may not have sufficient control of the vehicle . increasing the risk of a vehicle crash." The recall affects the 2010 Mercedes C-Class and the 2010 and 2011 E-Class Coupe and Cabriolet models. Owners may return the cars to dealers, who will check the powering steering systems for free, the company says.

Wal-Mart ends profit sharing with employees

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest private employer, plans to end automatic profit-sharing contributions for its employees in a revamp of its benefits package that it says will give workers more chance to share in its financial success. The discounter will replace profit-sharing starting in February with retirement plan contributions of up to 6 percent of pay—as long as workers sign up and contribute an equal amount, Wal-Mart said in a memo it provided The Associated Press late Friday. The payments added up to 4 percent to the compensation of employees who'd worked more than 13 months for the world's largest retailer. Wal-Mart also is setting aside up to $1,000 for each employee's health care account to cover eligible medical expenses before employees have to pay any deductible coinsurance.

Report: Apple to make iPhone for Verizon Wireless

WASHINGTON (AP)—Apple Inc. plans to make a version of its popular iPhone 4 available through Verizon Wireless by early next year, according to a published report. The iPhone is now available only through AT&T Inc. Adding Verizon Wireless, the nation's largest mobile phone operator, could significantly boost sales of Apple's phones, which face rising competition from smartphones that use Google Inc.'s Android operating system. The New York Times, citing an anonymous source briefed by Apple, reported the development late Friday. The Wall Street Journal also reported the move earlier this week.

Nation

NYC officials outraged over anti-gay gang torture

NEW YORK (AP)—Outraged city leaders said Saturday that the city wouldn't tolerate the "vicious" hatred that had apparently caused a street gang to allegedly beat and torture two teenage boys and a man inside an abandoned home over the course of several hours because they were gay.

Police arrested an eighth suspect in the beatings Saturday, while a ninth remained at large.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said that several of the suspects had made statements implicating themselves in the crime, which occurred in a neighborhood where residents said homosexuality is both common and tolerated.

Asked if the men had expressed any remorse for what they had done, Kelly said "I wouldn't call it remorse."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he was "sickened" by the violence, that police said included sodomizing one of the men with a plunger handle and hourslong torture of others. The attack came amid heightened attention to anti-gay bullying following a string of teen suicides attributed to it last month around the country.

"Like many New Yorkers, I was sickened by the brutal nature of these crimes and saddened by the anti-gay bias that contributed to them," the mayor said. "The heartless men who committed these crimes should know that their fellow New Yorkers will not tolerate their vicious acts, or the hatred that fuels them."

The suspects arrested Thursday and Friday were identified as Ildefonzo Mendez, 23; David Rivera, 21; four 17-year-olds, Steven Caraballo, Denis Peitars, Nelson Falu and Bryan Almonte; and Brian Cepeda, 16. All face charges including robbery, assault and unlawful imprisonment as hate crimes; Mendez, Rivera and Falu were additionally charged with committing a criminal sex act.

The eighth suspect, Elmer Confresi, 23, of the Bronx, turned himself in on Saturday. Kelly said that a lawyer representing the ninth suspect had arranged for his client to turn himself in, but never showed.

The suspects were awaiting possible arraignment Saturday, the Bronx District Attorney's office said.

A reporter knocked on Rivera's door in the Bronx Saturday and no one answered. Telephone numbers could not be found for the other suspects, and it wasn't immediately clear if the suspects had attorneys.

Bryan Almonte's stepmother, Carmen, told The New York Times that the teen was hospitalized Friday night after going into diabetic shock during his arrest. She said his father died three months ago.

AP

Police secure the abandoned home that served as a clubhouse, and allegedly a torture chamber, for a street gang accused of trapping and brutalizing three gay men is seen, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 in the Bronx borough of New York.

"Bryan is not a bad kid," she told the newspaper. "If he was there, he didn't do anything."

Cepeda was interested in becoming a police officer, said his mother, Ada Cepeda.

"He's not rude; he's quite intelligent," Cepeda told the Times. "I'm a realist. It's not that my son is a saint. But I doubt he would do that."

Police said the nine members of a gang that called itself the Latin King Goonies went berserk after hearing a rumor that one of their new recruits, a 17-year-old, was gay, and trapped and brutalized the men on Oct. 3-4.

Investigators say the teen was stripped, beaten and sodomized with a plunger handle until he confessed to having had sex with a 30-year-old man who lives a few blocks away.

Then, the group grabbed a second teen they suspected was gay and tortured him, too, police said. Finally, they invited the 30-year-old to the house, telling him they were having a party. When he arrived, they burned, beat and tortured him for hours. The attack included sodomizing him with a miniature baseball bat, police said.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who is gay, and other elected officials went to the empty brick townhouse where the attacks took place Saturday and passed out leaflets imploring residents to turn in the remaining suspects.

Obama: GOP plans to 'shortchange' education

WASHINGTON (AP)—Offering voters a reason to keep Democrats in power on Capitol Hill, President Barack Obama says Republicans would cut education spending and put the country's economic future at risk if they had their way.

A quality education is paramount, Obama said. He suggested that federal spending on education is one area where he would not compromise.

"What I'm not prepared to do is shortchange our children's education," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address.

Obama has spent much of the past two weeks contrasting a GOP proposal to cut spending, presumably including on education, with the billions of dollars he's investing to improve learning from kindergarten through college. That includes money for public schools, community colleges and to help make it cheaper and easier for families to afford higher education for their children.

Obama

This week, Obama announced a new public-private sector partnership to help match community college graduates and businesses with jobs to fill. The White House also held its first-ever summit on the state of community colleges.

In his weekly message, Obama acknowledged that the country faces tight fiscal times, but he said a good education is too important to the country's future prosperity to do it on the cheap.

"At a time when most of the new jobs being created will require some kind of higher education, when countries that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow, giving our kids the best education is an economic imperative," he said.

Republicans devoted their weekly address to what the party says are Obama's broken promises on jobs, the economy and health care.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., touched on the high unemployment rate, holding at 9.6 percent, and criticized Democratic leaders for sending lawmakers home for the Nov. 2 congressional elections without voting on a series of expiring Bush-era tax cuts.

Hiker freed by Iran appeals for friends' release

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—An American hiker recently freed by Iran said Saturday she is still haunted by images of her friend and fiance in their cramped jail cells and won't have her life back until they have been released.

Sarah Shourd spoke at a gathering of friends and family in Oakland, where she appealed to Iranian officials to show compassion and release her fiance, Shane Bauer, and friend, Josh Fattal.

"I'm not free," she said, as she choked up with tears. "My life will not resume until Shane and Josh are with me."

The three University of California, Berkeley graduates were near the Iran-Iraq border in July 2009 when they were detained by Iranian authorities. They were accused of illegally crossing the border and spying.

Shourd, who was freed on Sept. 14, has denied Iran's allegations and says the three were just hiking through a scenic area of Iraq's northern Kurdistan region during a vacation. She said again Saturday that like her, Fattal and Bauer are innocent.

"They've done nothing wrong and don't deserve to be there for a second longer than I was."

Shourd, 32, said she had no updates on efforts to release Fattal and Bauer and did not know how they were faring.

The U.S. State Department has said a delegation from Oman, an ally of Iran and the United States who mediated Shourd's release, has visited Iran to try to secure the freedom of Bauer and Fattal.

"I send them letters everyday, I won't know if they'll receive them," Shourd said. "I pray for a phone call, but I don't know if I'll ever get one, and I won't know until the day they are released."

About a dozen friends of Fattal, Shourd and Bauer were at the home of a friend of Shourd's in Oakland writing letters to Fattal and Bauer. Shourd grew up in Los Angeles, but her mother, Nora, lives in Oakland.

Iran's president has said Shourd was released because of her health issues. She had a breast lump and precancerous cervical cells, according to her mother.

Shourd said she has been examined by doctors and does not have cancer, but has been told she needs to be monitored.

Shourd and Bauer had been living together in Damascus, Syria, where Bauer was working as a freelance journalist and Shourd as an English teacher. Fattal, an environmental activist, went to visit them last July.

Bauer is a native of Onamia, Minnesota, and Fattal grew up in Pennsylvania.

ACROSS THE NATION

Commuter bus crashes in Chicago, injuring dozens

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities say dozens of people have been injured in Chicago after a crowded commuter bus traveled off a major thoroughfare and crashed into trees. Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford says around 70 people were on the Chicago Transit Authority bus when it veered off Lake Shore Drive around 6 p.m. Saturday. The impact caved in a front side of the bus. Langford says one person was taken to a hospital in critical condition and three in serious condition. About a dozen others were in fair to serious condition. Langford says more than 20 others were treated at the scene mainly for bumps and bruises.

NYC JetBlue passenger removed for security concern

NEW YORK (AP)—A passenger at New York City's John F. Kennedy Airport has been removed from a Florida-bound JetBlue flight because of a security concern. JetBlue spokeswoman Jenny Dervin says the passenger was taken off JetBlue Flight 21 that was scheduled to depart at 6:59 p.m. Saturday for Tampa. Dervin did not give a more specific reason for the passenger's removal beyond it being a security reason. She says the plane departed at 9:40 p.m. Saturday after it had been re-screened. It was expected to arrive in Tampa at 12:21 a.m. Sunday. A police spokesman says the passenger's removal was not terrorism-related.

Report: Candidate in Ohio wore German SS uniform

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A report says a Republican candidate for the U.S. House in Ohio dressed up in a German SS uniform to participate in Nazi reenactments. The Atlantic magazine says Rich Iott, a tea party favorite in northwest Ohio, has taken part in the reenactments for years. Iott is running in Ohio's 9th District against Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur, who was first elected in 1982. Iott says he didn't mean to disrespect anyone who has served in the military. He says he's been involved with historical reenactments from different eras since he graduated college.

Ohio man pleads guilty in dating-service scam

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man accused in a dating-service phone scam has pleaded guilty to two counts of extortion. Prosecutors say Kevin Zunk and a co-defendant, both of Toledo, convinced people in the dating service that they had sent racy photos and messages to a a cell phone that belonged to his 11-year-old son. The Blade reports 43-year-old Zunk told a federal judge Friday that he got the idea for the scam after he received an explicit photo on his phone by mistake. Zunk could face up to two years in prison and $250,000 in fines when he's sentenced in February.

Zunk's attorney says no children were involved in the scheme.

Asia

NKorea's Kim, heir apparent son appear on live television

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his son, heir apparent Kim Jong Un, appeared together a massive military parade Sunday held amid celebrations marking the foundation of the country's ruling party.

The two Kims stood on a reviewing stand at Pyongyang's central Kim Il Sung Square, named after the country's national founder, where goosestepping military personnel marched by and military hardware, including tanks, passed below.

The festivities were broadcast on state television, giving the North Korean people one of their first good looks at their future leader, who will his succeed his father to carry the communist dynasty into the third generation.

The elder Kim entered the venue to huge cheers from the crowd. He was accompanied by his son and other top officials including Kim Yong Nam, the president of the country's parliament.

The parade is part of celebrations marking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Workers' Party of Korea. The party last month held a landmark political convention, its most significant gathering in 30 years, at which Kim Jong Un was promoted to vice chairman of the organization's central military commission.

State TV showed goosestepping military personnel marching past the reviewing stand and being saluted by Kim Jong Il and later Kim Jong Un, who was not dressed in military uniform as some analysts had expected. He wore the same dark, communist-style outfit he has been seen photographed in recently since making his public debut late last month.

Earlier, a North Korean flag was raised and military officers in full dress uniform watching as a band played rousing music and the large crowd looked on.

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il applauds following a massive military parade marking the 65th anniversary of the communist nation's ruling Workers' Party in Pyongyang, North Korea on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010.

Filipino WWII veterans sue feds over benefits

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A lawsuit claims the federal government is discriminating against Filipino World War II veterans by giving them benefits far below what U.S. veterans receive.

"If you are recognized as a war veteran, then you should be accorded benefits like any other war veteran," said attorney Arnedo Valera, who filed the suit in San Francisco federal court Friday on behalf of 27 plaintiffs.

Valera spoke at a rally in front of the federal courthouse which drew dozens of Filipino veterans and women whose husbands served during the war but died before benefits were made available. Some held signs reading "Full Equity Now."

The suit against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs claims lump-sum payments of either $9,000 or $15,000 given to the Filipino soldiers are a pittance compared with the benefits that other veterans receive, including pensions and health care.

The U.S. agreed to pay those sums last year in lieu of pensions it promised the soldiers during the war but reneged on paying.

The suit demands compensation equal to what other veterans receive. It also wants the federal government to make the widows of Filipino soldiers who died before the benefits were approved eligible to receive their husbands' share.

About 250,000 Filipinos fought alongside American troops against the Japanese during World War II.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan to reopen border crossing used by NATO

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan said Saturday it will reopen a key border crossing and allow convoys to resume delivering supplies to NATO troops in Afghanistan, ending a 10-day blockade during which trucks were stranded on their way to the border and almost 150 were destroyed by attackers. Pakistan closed the northwest crossing at Torkham on Sept. 30 in an apparent protest over a NATO helicopter incursion that killed two of its soldiers on the border. Since the closure there have been almost daily attacks on the scores of trucks stranded on their way to Torkham from the port city of Karachi, and on those bottlenecked on the roads to a smaller crossing at Chaman in the southwest that has remained open.

Bus and truck collide in foggy China, killing 17

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media says a collision between an intercity bus and a cement truck on a foggy eastern China highway has killed at least 17 people. The Xinhua News Agency reports that Saturday's crash occurred in thick fog outside Nanjing city. The report says that the collision caused the truck to catch fire. Xinhua reports the bus was carrying 53 people, and besides the 17 dead, another 23 were injured, six seriously. The crash occurred between Nanjing city and the eastern city of Hefei, but the report did not say which direction the bus was heading.

Editor enters prison for pics in *Playboy* Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The former editor-in-chief of *Playboy* Indonesia began a two-year prison sentence Saturday for publishing pictures of scantily clothed women, riling free speech activists in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Erwin Arnada, 47, did not speak as he was escorted from the prosecutor's detainee car under tight security at the Cipinang prison in the capital, Jakarta. When the now-defunct *Playboy* Indonesia hit newsstands in 2006, Islamic hard-liners smashed its editorial offices and started legal proceedings against its top editor.

World

Minister says Wednesday rescue likely in Chile mine

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—Chile's trapped miners cheered and embraced Saturday when a drill punched an escape shaft into an underground chamber in a spray of rock and dust on the 66th day of their agonizing entombment, opening the way for rescuers to set plans to begin lifting the men out by midweek.

The government's mining minister said late Saturday that the extraction of the 33 men will probably begin Wednesday, after an inspection revealed that the new hole is mostly strong enough to enable them to escape safely. He said only a stretch at the top will be reinforced with steel pipe.

The completion of the rescue shaft caused bedlam in the tent city known as "Camp Hope," where the miners' relatives have held vigil since a cave-in sealed off the gold and copper mine Aug. 5.

Miners videotaping the drill breaking through a chamber's ceiling 2,041 feet (622 meters) underground could be seen cheering joyfully and hugging each other, the drillers said. At the surface, the rescuers chanted, danced and sprayed champagne so excitedly that some of their hard hats tumbled off.

"On the video, they all started shouting and hugging and celebrating," said James Stefanic, operations manager for the U.S.-Chilean drilling company Geotec.

The success of the escape shaft was a tremendous relief for families of the miners.

"We feel an enormous happiness," said Darwin Contreras, whose brother Pedro, a 26-year-old heavy machine operator, is stuck down below. "Now we just have to wait for them to get out, just a little bit longer now."

Contractor Jeff Hart of Denver, Colorado, operated the drill, pounding through solid rock and the detritus of the collapsed mine, which corkscrews deep below a remote hill in Chile's Atacama desert.

"There is nothing more important than saving—possibly saving—33 lives. There's no more important job than that," Hart said. "We've done our part, now it's up to them to get the rest of the way out."

While the "Plan A" and "Plan C" drills stalled after repeatedly veering off course, the "Plan B" T130 drill reached the miners at 8:05 a.m. (8:05 a.m. EDT; 1200 GMT), after 33 days of drilling.

The milestone thrilled Chileans, who have come to see the rescue drama as a test of the nation's character and pride.

"What began as a potential tragedy is becoming a verified blessing," President Sebastian Pinera said in a triumphant speech at the La Moneda palace in Santiago. "When we Chileans set aside our legitimate differences and unify in a grand and noble cause, we are capable of great things."

But there is still a lot to do, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne stressed.

"We still haven't rescued anybody," he said. "This rescue won't be over until the last person below leaves this mine."

Video inspections of the shaft gave rescuers enough confidence to reinforce only the first 315 feet (96 meters). The plan is to insert 16 sections of half-inch-thick steel pipe into the top of the hole, which curves like a waterfall at first before becoming nearly vertical for most of its depth. The work would begin immediately, Golborne said.

Hungary sludge reservoir at risk of collapse

DEVECSER, Hungary (AP)—The cracking wall of an industrial plant reservoir appeared on the verge of collapse late Saturday, and engineers were working to blunt a possible second wave of the caustic red sludge that has already deluged several towns in western Hungary and killed seven.

Residents of one nearby town were evacuated, others were ordered to be ready to evacuate, and everyone was bracing for a new onslaught of toxic material. Engineers feared a second wave could be even more toxic than the first because the sludge remaining in the reservoir was more concentrated.

"If another wave comes, I was thinking of standing on top of the kitchen table," said Maria Gyori, a 79-year-old homemaker in the town of Devecser. Maybe the sludge won't go that high."

Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the northern wall of MAL Rt.'s storage pool, which released at least 700,000 cubic meters (184 million gallons) of caustic red sludge and water five days ago after one of its corners ruptured, was showing numerous cracks and seemed ready to fail completely.

"Because it may happen at any moment, but it's also possible that it won't happen ... there's only one thing we can do—we have to behave as if this could happen any minute," Orban told reporters in Budapest. "There's no technical equipment that could really stop this process and the only thing we can do is prepare ourselves to stop the damage it would cause."

Engineers were building retaining walls around the previous breach and the weakened wall of the reservoir just outside Kolontar, the town hardest hit by the sludge flood. Kolontar's nearly 800 residents were evacuated early Saturday as a preventive measure.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mayor-elect shot as hits on Mexico politicos climb

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—The mayor-elect of a small town near Oaxaca state's Pacific coast has been shot to death, the latest in a string of politicial figures who have been slain in Mexico this year. Antonio Jimenez Banos, 47, who would have taken office in January in Martires de Tacubaya, was killed Friday afternoon by an assailant as he was returning to his farm. He was hit in the head and chest apparently with a shotgun, prosecutors said. Eleven sitting mayors have been killed so far this year in Mexico. Two of them were also in Oaxaca, but most of the killings have been in northern states plagued by drug gang violence.

Zimbabwean liberation hero burial snubs Mugabe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—President Robert Mugabe's party says it has backed down in a clash with the family of a veteran Zimbabwe politician and independence war fighter. The family of Welshman Mabhena refused to allow him to be buried at a national shrine for fallen guerrillas and politicians. A top ranking official in Mugabe's party said Saturday it "respects the wishes" of the family, state radio reported. Mabhena, who died Tuesday at the age of 86, was declared a "national hero" by Mugabe to be buried at the shrine. In a major snub to Mugabe, he was interred at a private cemetery Saturday.

Focus

SUICIDE SURGE:

Schools confront anti-gay bullying

NEW YORK (AP)—A spate of teen suicides linked to anti-gay harassment is prompting school officials nationwide to rethink their efforts against bullying—and in the process, risk entanglement in a bitter ideological debate.

The conflict: Gay-rights supporters insist that any effective anti-bullying program must include specific components addressing harassment of gay youth. But religious conservatives condemn that approach as an unnecessary and manipulative tactic to sway young people's views of homosexuality.

It's a highly emotional topic. Witness the hate mail—from the left and right—directed at Minnesota's Anoka-Hennepin School District while it reviews its anti-bullying strategies in the aftermath of a gay student's suicide.

The invective is "some of the worst I've ever seen," Superintendent Dennis Carlson said. "We may invite the Department of Justice to come in and help us mediate this discussion between people who seem to want to go at each other."

Carlson's district in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis is politically diverse, and there are strong, divided views on how to combat bullying.

"We believe the bullying policy should put the emphasis on the wrong actions of the bullies and not the characteristics of the victims," said Chuck Darrell of the conservative Minnesota Family Council.

That's a wrongheaded, potentially dangerous approach, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network—which tries to improve the school climate for gay students nationwide.

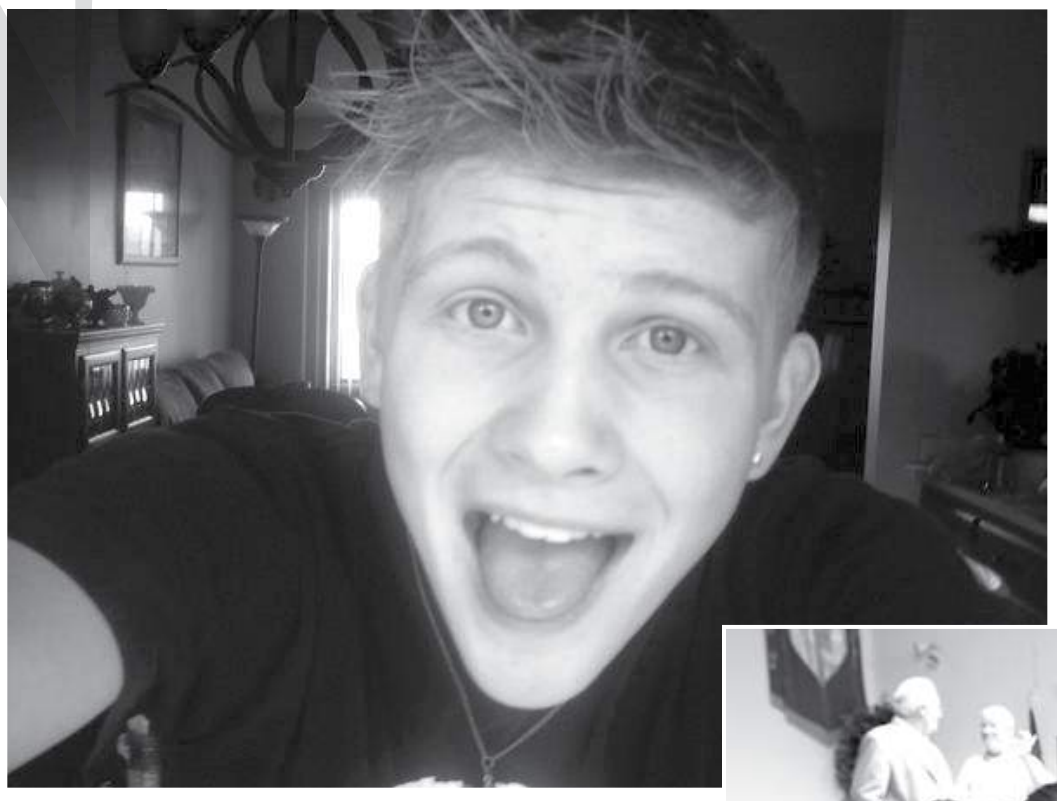
"Policies have to name the problem in order to have an impact," said GLSEN's executive director, Eliza Byard. "Only the ones that name it see an improvement."

According to a 2009 GLSEN survey of 7,261 students, only 18 percent said their schools had a comprehensive program addressing anti-gay bullying, while gay students in schools that had such programs were less likely to be victimized and more likely to report problems to staff.

Across the political spectrum, every group weighing in on the issue had deplored the recent deaths—the latest in a long series of suicides over many years by harassed gay teens, but dramatic nonetheless because of the high toll in a short span.

The most recent and highest-profile case involved Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, 18, who killed himself by jumping off the George Washington bridge after his roommate secretly recorded him with another male student, then broadcast the video online.

But at least four younger teens have killed themselves since July after being targeted by anti-gay bullying, including Justin Aaberg, 15, of Andover, Minn., who hanged himself in his room in July. His friends told his mother he'd been a frequent target of bullies mocking his sexual orientation.



◀ This 2009 picture provided by his family shows Justin Aaberg at his home in Andover, Minn. Aaberg, 15, hanged himself in his room in July 2010. His friends told his mother he'd been a frequent target of bullies mocking his sexual orientation. AP

▼ In this Friday, Oct. 1, 2010 picture, Taylier Sons, center wearing stripes, hugs Julia Stebbins at Seth Walsh's memorial in the First Baptist Church in Tehachapi, Calif. They were classmates and friends of Seth who committed suicide. At left wearing gray is Payton Jones who was also a classmate of Seth. They were part of over 500 people who attended the boy's memorial. AP

Five other students in his Anoka-Hennepin school district have killed themselves in the past year, and gay-rights advocates say bullying may have played a role in two of these cases as well.

Carlson, the district superintendent, lost a teenage daughter of his own in a car crash, and says he shares the anguish of the parents bereaved by suicide. He acknowledges that a controversial district policy calling for "neutrality" in classroom discussions of sexual orientation may have created an impression among some teachers, students and outsiders that school staff wouldn't intervene aggressively to combat anti-gay bullying.

The district—Minnesota's largest—serves nearly 40,000 students in 13 towns. The school board adopted the neutrality policy in 2009 as a balancing act, trying not to offend either liberal or conservative families.

Rebecca Dearing, 17, a junior who belongs to the gay-straight alliance at the district's Champlin Park High School, said the neutrality policy caused teachers to shy away from halting anti-gay harassment—sometimes leaving her gay friends feeling vulnerable to the point where they don't come to school.

"This shouldn't be a political issue any more, when it's affecting the lives of our students," she said. "It's a human issue that needs to be dealt with. They can be doing more and they're not."

In August, amid the furor over the suicides, the district clarified its anti-bullying program—saying that it was not governed by the neutrality provision and had always been intended to encourage vigilant, proactive adult intervention to curb anti-gay harassment. Staffers were told failure to intervene would be punished.

Justin Aaberg's mother, Tammy Aaberg, is convinced the broader neutrality policy has been damaging to gay students and wants it changed. She said she heard belatedly from Justin's friends about instances in past years where he was harassed that she was never notified about even through staff members were aware.

Now she sees signs that the district wants to be more diligent, but isn't fully reassured.

"Most of the teachers and principals, and maybe even now the superintendent, they mean well—they want to intervene," she said. "But the teachers still don't know what they can and can't do."

Nadia Boufous Phelps, the school psychologist at Anoka's Blaine High School, is co-advisor for its gay-straight alliance—to which 27 of the 3,000 students belong. She welcomes the attempt to clarify the stance toward anti-gay bullying.

"In the past, the staff often would not intervene," she said. "Now the district has come out loud and clear, if you hear "That's so gay,' if you witness anything, you must do something."

Still, she said, "We still have a long way to go"

Carlson says his district, seven years ago, was among the first in the state to implement a comprehensive anti-bullying program. Now he's exasperated by the highly charged, politicized debate that has flared since Aaberg's suicide.

"It's a terribly sensitive situation," he said. "Hurtful statements on either side are not helpful ... and the kids are watching."

Phil Duran, staff attorney for the statewide gay rights group OutFront Minnesota, says Carlson and his colleagues are constrained by school board members who do not want to anger conservative voters in the district.

"They're between a rock and a hard place," he said. "I do think they want to do the right thing—I don't think they known what the right thing is."

Nationally, the recent suicides have intensified calls on Congress to pass a pending bill, the Safe Schools Improvement Act. It would require schools receiving federal funds to implement bullying prevention programs that specifically address anti-gay harassment.

Supporters of the act say it has bipartisan support, but the likelihood of Democratic losses in the Nov. 2 election cloud its prospects, and it is vehemently opposed by many conservatives.

"A lot of these anti-bullying programs are crossing the lines far beyond bullying prevention into adult-oriented material and politics," said Candi Cushman, education analyst for Focus on the Family. Mission America president Linda Harvey said the act would "incorporate mandatory pro-gay propaganda."

According to GLSEN, 10 states have anti-bullying laws along the lines of the Safe Schools Act—requiring specific components addressing anti-gay harassment. But gay-rights activists say enforcement and compliance is not uniform.

For example, Dave Reynolds of the Trevor Project, which seeks to combat teen suicides, says many California schools are not in compliance with the state's 10-year-old law. One problem area, he said, is California's Central Valley—the source of many calls to the Trevor Project's suicide hot line.

Jeffree Merteuil-Clark, 17, is a junior who's active in the gay-straight alliance at Frontier High School in Bakersfield, a Central Valley city not far from Tehachapi. That's the town where 13-year-old Seth Walsh, hanged himself outside his home last month after enduring taunts from classmates about being gay. He died after nine days in a coma.

Merteuil-Clark said the teachers who are sympathetic to bullied gay students tend to be cautious, fearing they might antagonize Kern County school administrators who want to "sweep the problem under the rug."

"Growing up gay in Kern County, you have all this opposition to you," he said. "It does have an impact on you. When you're little, you think the rest of the world hates you."

The debate has proved to be a minefield for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, one of the largest in the nation, as it strives to serve schools ranging from progressive to conservative.

"We have to be extremely careful," said Marlene Snyder, the Olweus development director, describing a community-by-community approach which enables schools to tailor the program as they see fit in regard to anti-gay bullying.

Health & Fitness

NY seeks to ban sugary drinks from food stamp buys

AP

In this photo provided by the Mayor's office, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, right, and New York Gov. David Paterson, center, attend a news conference to unveil an initiative excluding sugar-sweetened beverages from food stamp purchases Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

By SARA KUGLER FRAZIER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Using food stamps to buy sodas, teas, sports drinks and other sugar-sweetened beverages would not be allowed in New York City under a new government effort to battle obesity.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. David Paterson announced Thursday that they are seeking permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the nation's food stamp program, to add sugary drinks to the list of prohibited goods for city residents receiving assistance.

If approved, it would be the first time an item would be banned from the federal program based solely on nutritional value.

Spending government money on "foods of little or no nutritional value not only contradicts the intent of the program, it also effectively subsidizes a serious public health epidemic," New York officials wrote in their proposal.

The idea has been suggested before, including in 2008 in Maine, where it drew criticism from advocates for the poor who argued it unfairly singled out low-income people and risked scaring off potential needy recipients.

In 2004, the USDA rejected Minnesota's plan to ban junk food, including soda and candy, from food stamp purchases, saying it would violate the Food Stamp Act's definition of what is food and could create "confusion and embarrassment" at the register.

New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Farley said he believes New York's request has a better chance of being approved than the "skimpy" 2004 Minnesota program because it focuses only on beverages.

He said it also has the advantage of being a temporary program with an evaluation plan to study its effectiveness.

USDA spokesman Aaron Lavallee said Thursday the agency received the proposal and will consider it.

The food stamp system, launched in the 1960s, serves some 40 million Americans per month and does not currently restrict any food item based on nutrition.

Recipients can essentially buy any food for the household, although there are some limits on hot or prepared foods. Food stamps also cannot be used to buy alcohol, cigarettes or items such as pet food, vitamins or household goods.

The ban would apply to any beverage that contains more than 10 calories per 8 ounces, except for milk products, milk substitutes like soy milk and rice milk, and fruit juices without added sugar.

A 20-ounce sugar-sweetened drink can contain the equivalent of as many as 16 packets of sugar.

Some New Yorkers who receive the assistance said officials had good intentions but felt the proposal went too far.

"I can see the sodas, but suppose somebody's in bad shape and they just want juice?" said Harold Vilson, a 56-year-old Brooklyn resident who said he uses food stamps.

"If people want to buy that stuff, they should be able to. If it's not an illegal product, they should be able to buy what they want to buy."

The program would be temporary, so officials could study its effects over two years. It would apply only to food stamp recipients in New York City—1.7 million of the city's more than 8 million residents—and would not affect the amount of assistance they receive.

"Sugar-sweetened drinks are not worth the cost to our health, and government shouldn't be promoting or subsidizing them," said Bloomberg, who also has outlawed trans-fats in restaurant food and has forced chain restaurants to post calorie counts on menus.

In fiscal year 2009, New Yorkers received $2.7 billion in food stamp benefits and spent $75 million to $135 million of that on sugary drinks, the city said.

Officials said stores that participate in the food stamp program would be responsible for enforcing the ban. They acknowledged the possibility that food stamp users could travel outside city limits to buy the prohibited drinks.

Advocates for the poor expressed alarm about the proposal, which the New York City Coalition Against Hunger said "punishes poor people for the supposed crime of being poor."

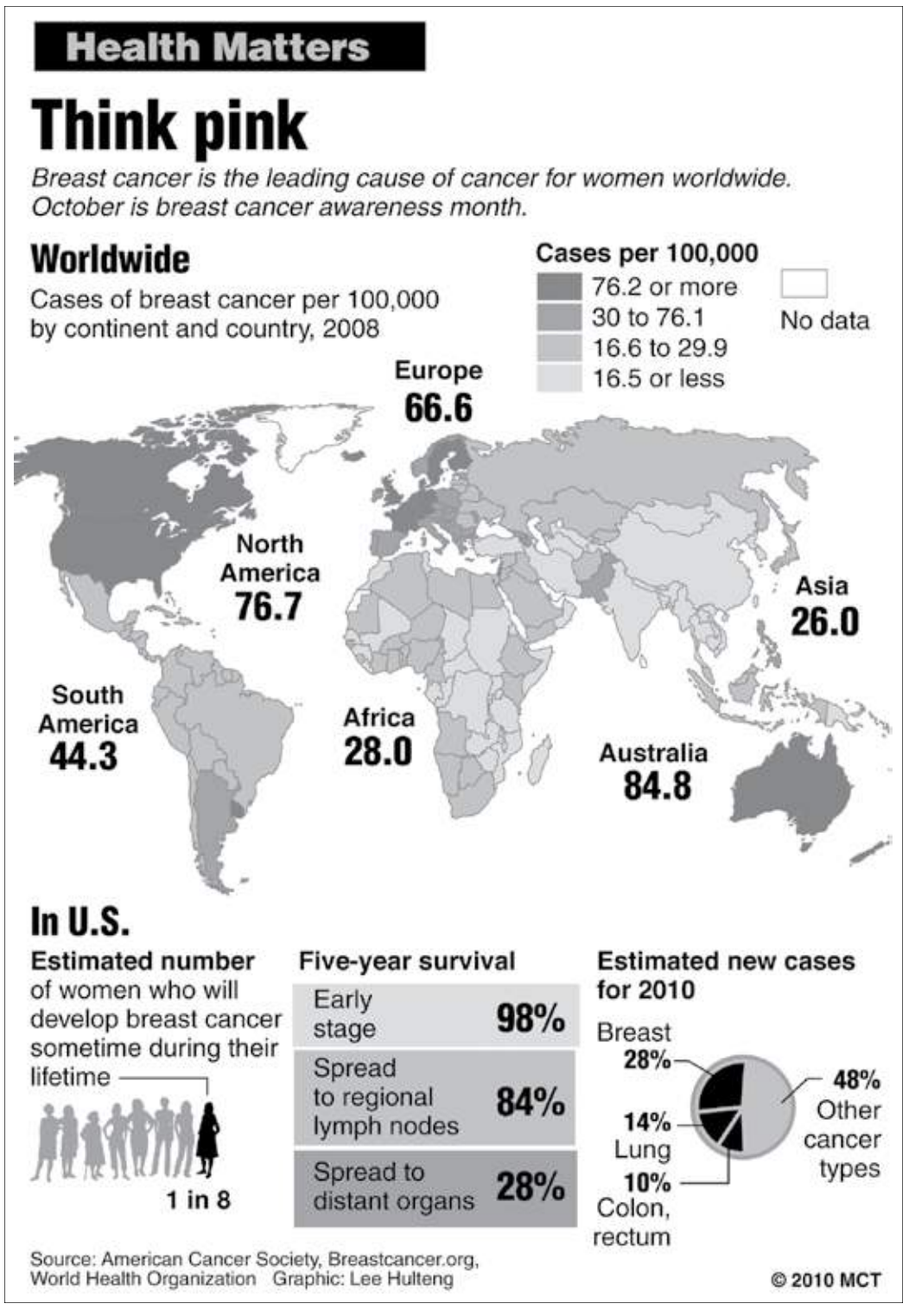
"It's sending the message to low-income people that they are uniquely the only people in America who don't know how to take care of their family," said Joel Berg, the group's executive director. "The problem isn't that they're making poor choices, the problem is that they can't afford nutritious food."

There still are many unhealthful products New Yorkers could purchase with food stamps, including potato chips, ice cream and candy. Officials said the proposal targets sugary drinks because they are the largest contributor to obesity.

More than half of adult New York City residents are overweight or obese, along with nearly 40 percent of public school students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

City officials said lower-income residents are most likely to drink one or more sugar-sweetened drinks a day; adult-onset diabetes is also twice as common among poor New Yorkers compared to the wealthiest.

In New York, a proposal to adopt a penny-per-ounce tax on sweetened soda failed to get out of the state Legislature earlier this year; Bloomberg backed the state proposal.


Health Matters
Think pink
Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer for women worldwide.
October is breast cancer awareness month.
Worldwide
Cases of breast cancer per 100,000 by continent and country, 2008
Cases per 100,000
76.2 or more
30 to 76.1
16.6 to 29.9
16.5 or less
No data
Europe 66.6
North America 76.7
Asia 26.0
South America 44.3
Africa 28.0
Australia 84.8
In U.S.
Estimated number of women who will develop breast cancer sometime during their lifetime
1 in 8
Five-year survival
Early stage 98%
Spread to regional lymph nodes 84%
Spread to distant organs 28%
Estimated new cases for 2010
Breast 28%
Lung 14%
Colon, rectum 10%
48% Other cancer types
Source: American Cancer Society, Breastcancer.org, World Health Organization Graphic: Lee Hulteng
© 2010 MCT

Life & Style

John Lennon's 70th celebrated in NY's Central Park

NEW YORK (AP)—A crush of fans circled a flower-graced mosaic in Central Park's Strawberry Fields and sang lyrics from "Imagine" on Saturday to honor Beatles legend John Lennon on his 70th birthday.

On the day when the Liverpool Lad would have become a septuagenarian, thousands of fans from around the world gathered to remember the floppy-haired British superstar who just wanted to give peace a chance.

"His music speaks to people of any nation, any age, and that's why I think so many young people now who never would have known him still find him so appealing," said Karen Kriendler Nelson, 69, who lives nearby and often visits the mosaic that spells out Lennon's song "Imagine."

She and her Maltese dog, Pino, joined a group of fans who sang the lines, "Imagine there's no countries/ It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion too/ Imagine all the people/ Living life in peace ..."

Joan Acarin and his wife, Laia, visited the memorial from Spain.

"The values Lennon defended are still alive," said Joan Acarin, a 41-year-old attorney from Barcelona. "It's the idea that we do not have to fight wars."

Fans began arriving on Friday, spilling onto the sidewalk of Central Park West, where Lennon and wife Yoko Ono lived in the famed Dakota building for nine years. He was shot to death by a deranged gunman as he came home on the evening of Dec. 8, 1980.

Police erected barricades to contain the crowd alongside passing traffic.

This year, the memorial to the slain ex-Beatle and peace activist includes a mosaic donated by the city of Naples, Italy. A plaque lists 121 countries that endorse Strawberry Fields as a Garden of Peace.

The 2.5-acre site was created by Ono and named after the Lennon song, which also observes that "living is easy with eyes closed, misunderstanding all you see."

The birthday celebration got started early Friday in his native England, where Google UK released a 32-second video "doodle" with an "Imagine" soundtrack. The interactive electronic art generates a butterfly and a flower—reflecting Lennon's devotion to world peace.

In Liverpool, Lennon's first wife, Cynthia and, their son, Julian, unveiled a sculpture to celebrate his life.

Hundreds of people gathered at the city center's Chavasse Park to watch the pair cut a ribbon to reveal the statue, called "Peace and Harmony." The sculpture, which features a colorful globe with doves flying above it, was designed by 19-year-old American artist Lauren Voiers.

AP

People gather around the Imagine mosaic in Strawberry Fields in New York's Central Park, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010.

The two held hands and joined the crowd in singing John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

"I think the mourning is over for John. I think it's time to celebrate," said Cynthia, 71. "Think about his life that was positive and good and just enjoy that."

She was married to John Lennon from 1962 to 1968.

In New York, planned celebrations include a Saturday evening benefit concert at the Society For Ethical Culture, a short walk from Strawberry Fields. The proceeds will go to the human rights organization Amnesty International.

Capping the New York remembrances would be a Central Park screening of a documentary detailing Lennon's life in the city. Titled "LENNONYC," the new public television film to be shown at 7 p.m. in the park's Rumsey Playfield, with picnic-style seating on the ground.

Ono was set to mark her late husband's milestone birthday in Iceland with a performance by the Yoko Ono Plastic Ono Band. She also was to present awards to people who had contributed to peace.

Ono marked her late husband's milestone birthday in Iceland with a lighting of the Imagine Peace Tower, which shines a beam of blue light into the sky, followed by a concert by the Plastic Ono Band. Ono dedicated the tower to Lennon in 2007.

She also presented awards to people who have contributed to peace, included Alice Walker, the author of "The Color Purple."

"Like millions around the world, I deeply loved John," Walker said as she received the award in Reykjavik.

The other winners were filmmaker Josh Fox, who made the documentary "Gasland"; author and activist Michael Pollan and food safety advocate Barbara Kowalcyk.

Just before Lennon was killed, the couple collaborated on a last album "that was so different from anything he did before," said David Edwards, a college student in Kentucky who drove 14 hours to New York City to pay tribute.

The 22-year-old found a different way to honor the slain Beatle in the bustling crowd of admirers: He sat alone on a bench with earphones on, listening to Lennon's music on his iPod while reading his book "Skywriting By Word of Mouth."

"What gets me is his humanity," Edwards said. "He was one of the first superstars who showed that he was vulnerable—he was Everyman."

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

Ruben Torres Silvestre SR

Born: May 4, 1944 Died: October 13, 2009

Would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate his First Death Anniversary into eternal life on October 13, 2010 at Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church at 6:30 pm.
Dinner will be served after the mass at Grillin's Restaurant at Ocean View Hotel, Garapan.

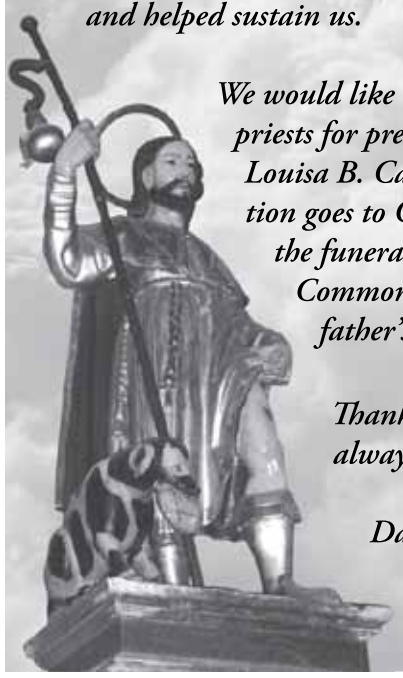
Thank you very much, Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Maraming Salamat Po.

From
Thelma & JR Silvestre & Ruth Ann & Edward Cayanan & Family

In Humble Gratitude

†FRANCISCO DLG. CAMACHO

We, the family of the late Francisco Dlg. Camacho, extend our profound appreciation to all families and friends of far and near for your prayers and words of kindness during our time of sorrow. Your friendship and gentle embrace has brought us great comfort and helped sustain us.



We would like to thank Bishop-Emeritus, Tomas A. Camacho and all the priests for presiding over the mass of Christian Burial. Our Techa, Nan Louisa B. Castro, thank you for leading the nightly rosary. Our appreciation goes to Cabrera Funeral Services for their care and respect in handling the funeral arrangements. We also want to thank the ICU staff at the Commonwealth Health Center for their help and support during our father's brief stay at the hospital.

Thank you very much to all who helped us in one way or another during this difficult time. We will always hold you close to our hearts.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and may God Bless and keep you.

Victoria B. Camacho, Children and Family

Dafoe says he's proud of Green Goblin

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—Some serious character actors may be embarrassed about playing a comic book character, but Willem Dafoe says he's proud of his role as the villain Green Goblin in the "Spider-Man" movies.

The 55-year-old American actor was asked several times about his performances in Hollywood's "Spider-Man" franchise at a news conference at South Korea's Pusan International Film Festival late Friday—instead of his more critically acclaimed roles in socially conscious dramas like "Platoon" and "Mississippi Burning."

One reporter even apologized for the line of questioning.

"That's part of my story. Don't be sorry. I'm very proud of that movie," Dafoe responded.

The Appleton, Wisconsin native was in Pusan to promote the film noir "A Woman," which was directed by his wife, Italian filmmaker Giada Colagrande. He plays a novelist who is devastated by the death of his wife but also caught up in a new romance.

Dafoe, however, said he has become more adventurous in choosing new parts because he is now an established actor who can afford to take creative risks.

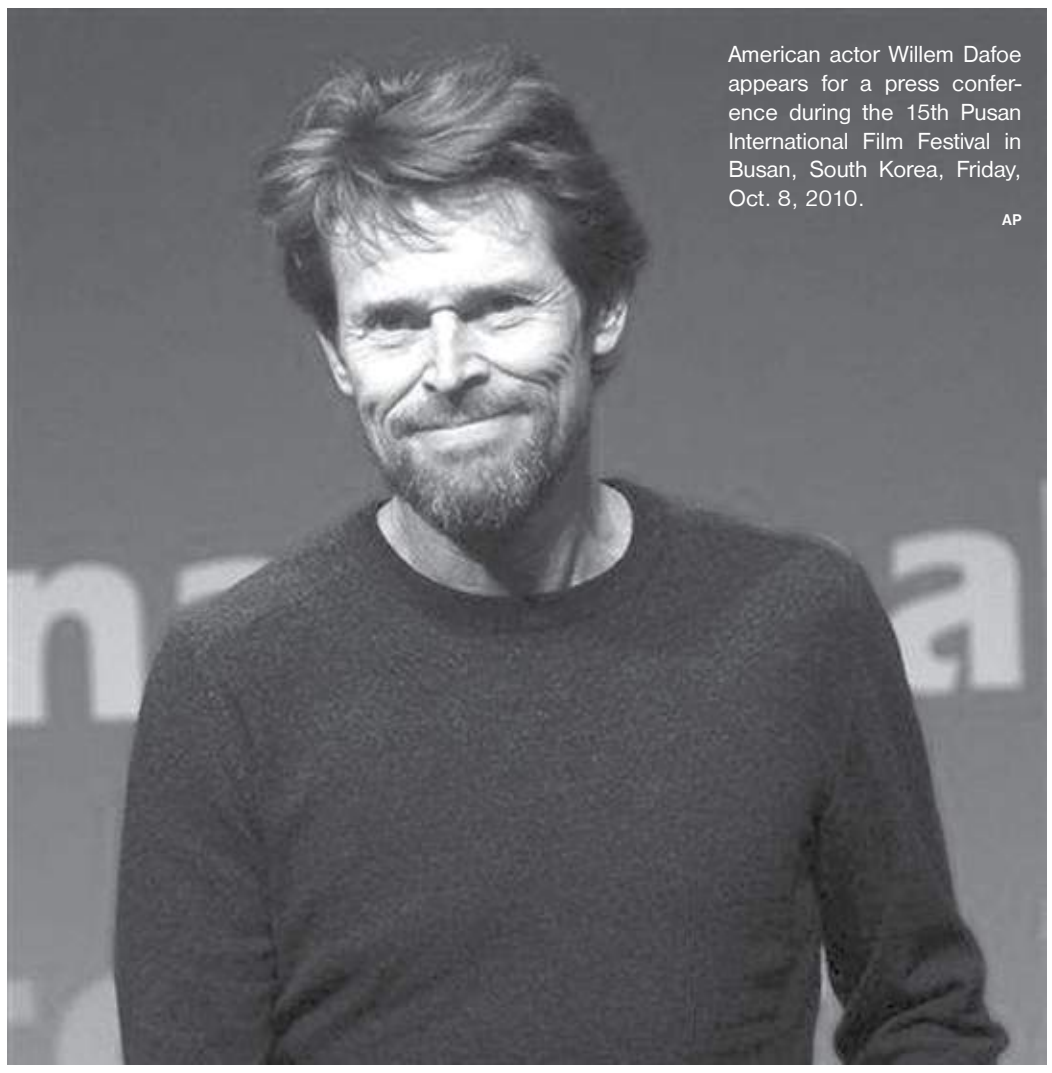
"I feel like I can be a little more reckless," he said.

The veteran actor has kept up a diverse mix of characters in his recent career. Among his latest releases are "Miral," in which he plays an American who witnesses the development of an orphanage for Palestinian children. He also plays a nine-foot (2.5-meter) tall Martian warrior in the animated film "John Carter of Mars."

"I very much am attracted to strong directors, passionate directors, people who are on fire to express their cinema. I am less interested in exercises in style," he said. "I require more adventure and stimulation."

Dafoe said he'd like to work in Asia again. He played a Jesuit missionary who falls in love with a married woman from 1930s Chinese high society in Hong Kong director Yim Ho's 2001 release "Pavilion of Women," which was shot in the Chinese city of Suzhou.

"I'm always looking for opportunities to work in other situations because it always frees you from your cultural orientation and really helps you get to the most basic, the most essential aspects of telling a story or performing or making cinema," he said.



American actor Willem Dafoe appears for a press conference during the 15th Pusan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 8, 2010.

AP

Anna Nicole drug conspiracy case goes to jury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Anna Nicole Smith drug conspiracy case, charging her lawyer-boyfriend and two doctors with providing the former Playboy model with excessive amounts of drugs, was placed in the hands of a jury Friday.

In a full week of final arguments, opposing lawyers battled over whether the defendants loved Smith and tried to relieve her pain or fed her addiction to medications to curry favor with a celebrity.

Attorney Steve Sadow, the last defense lawyer to speak, said Smith was the love of Howard K. Stern's life and he trusted the two doctors on trial with him to ease her suffering with prescription drugs.

Witnesses testified during the trial that Smith had chronic pain syndrome and other ailments.

Sadow, who represents Stern, said his client was not qualified to second-guess the doctors who were acting in good faith prescribing drugs for Smith's physical and emotional pain after the birth of her daughter and death of her son.

Jurors were told to select a foreperson then sent home until Tuesday when they will begin deliberations. Monday is a court holiday.

After nine weeks of testimony and arguments, the last word to jurors came from a prosecutor who implored them to convict the defendants on all counts.

Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose said the three defendants committed fraud by using false names for Smith on prescriptions and contended the thousands of doses of opiates, sedatives and other pills were prescribed to cater to an addiction.

Stern was complicit in picking up prescriptions on many occasions, the prosecutor said.

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry reminded jurors that the numbers of pills prescribed do not legally prove addiction.

The case is being closely watched by pain management doctors and patients. The judge has remarked there is some concern about doctors under-prescribing pain medication to suffering patients because of legal worries.

Rose and Perry, who had disagreements throughout the trial, clashed again during her rebuttal argument when the judge said she was misleading the jury about some of the evidence. He threatened at one point to let the defense have another chance at argument if the behavior continued.

"My concern is I have a prosecutor who is misrepresenting what was said," the judge said.

Rose apologized and said she never meant to misstate anything. Perry told the jury to disregard a section of her argument that may have contained false implications.

In the balance of her argument, Rose claimed the defendants were drawn into Smith's world of celebrity and broke the law in treating her.

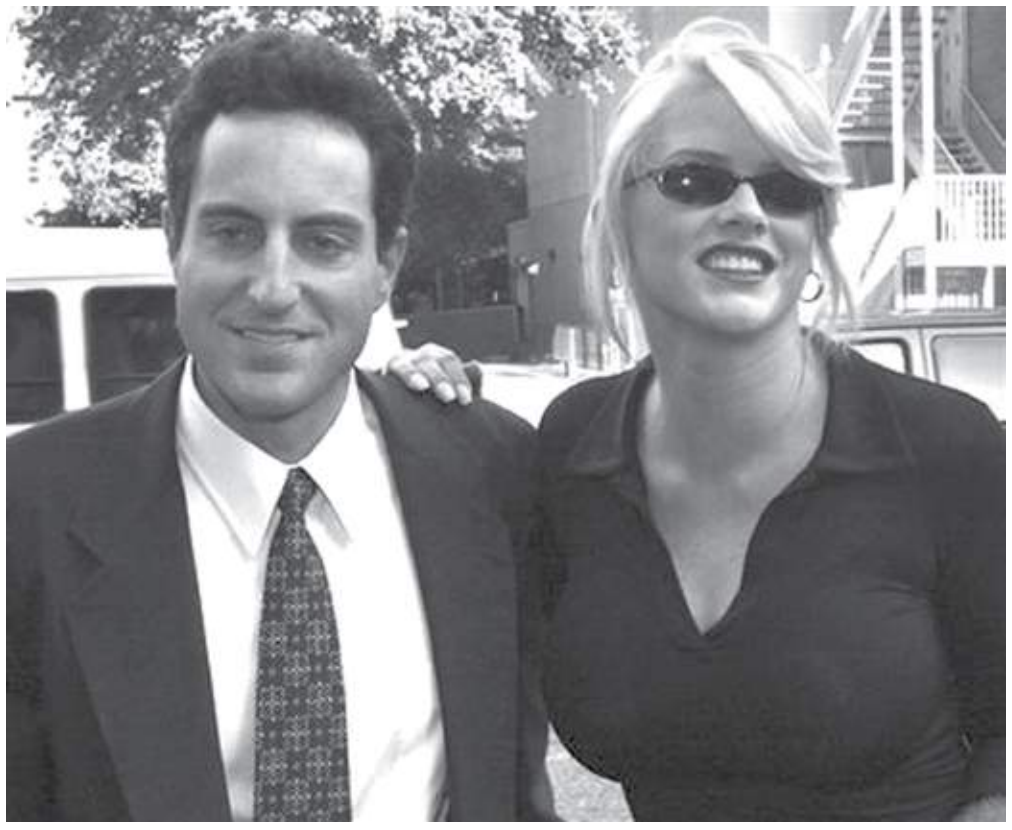
"In the real world, your doctor doesn't fly to you in the Bahamas if you're sick and then fly back." Rose said. "It happens in Anna Nicole Smith's world."

Sadow stressed that he was speaking for Stern. But in denying his client was part of a conspiracy, Sadow advocated for all three defendants. Their lawyers spoke earlier.

Stern is charged as an aider and abettor to the doctors' actions. Sadow said that to be convicted, "Howard has to know when a prescription is written that the doctor intended to break the law."

He said there has been no testimony to support that claim.

Stern and Drs. Sandeep Kapoor and Khristine Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide excessive prescription drugs to an addict and other charges. They are not charged in Smith's 2007 accidental overdose death in Florida.



AP

In this Oct. 2, 2000 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, right, smiles as she walks to the courthouse with her attorney Howard K. Stern in Houston.

Facebook co-founders give $170K to pro-pot measure

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's ballot measure to legalize marijuana has a new friend: Facebook co-founder Sean Parker has given $100,000 to back the proposal.

Parker's donation was reported in Proposition 19 campaign finance filings this week.

And he's not the first big Proposition 19 donor with ties to the social networking site. Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz has made two donations totalling $70,000, including a $50,000 contribution last month.

Neither Parker nor Moskovitz are still with Palo Alto-based Facebook, but both still have ownership stakes. Recent estimates put the value of the privately held company as high as $33.7 billion.

"What's interesting here is that (Parker) is a member of the generation that really gets it," said Stephen Gutwillig, a spokesman for the Drug Policy Alliance, the main beneficiary of Parker's contribution. "We think he's pivotal to the future of drug policy reform in the country."

The 30-year-old served as Facebook's first president and helped transform the company from dorm-room project to big business. Parker and Moskovitz have become household names since the recent release of "The Social Network." The film chronicling the contentious origins of Facebook was No. 1 at the box office last week.

Pop musician and actor Justin Timberlake plays Parker in the movie, which portrays him as a hotshot who convinces Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg to push out his friend from the burgeoning company.

In a recent Vanity Fair profile, the media-shy entrepreneur is described as a computer-programming prodigy with an uncanny knack for anticipating online trends and a penchant for designer clothes and partying.

At age 19, Parker helped develop Napster, the music-sharing software that turned the recording industry upside-down. He is now a partner at Founders Fund, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm.

Parker did not immediately respond to e-mails seeking comment.

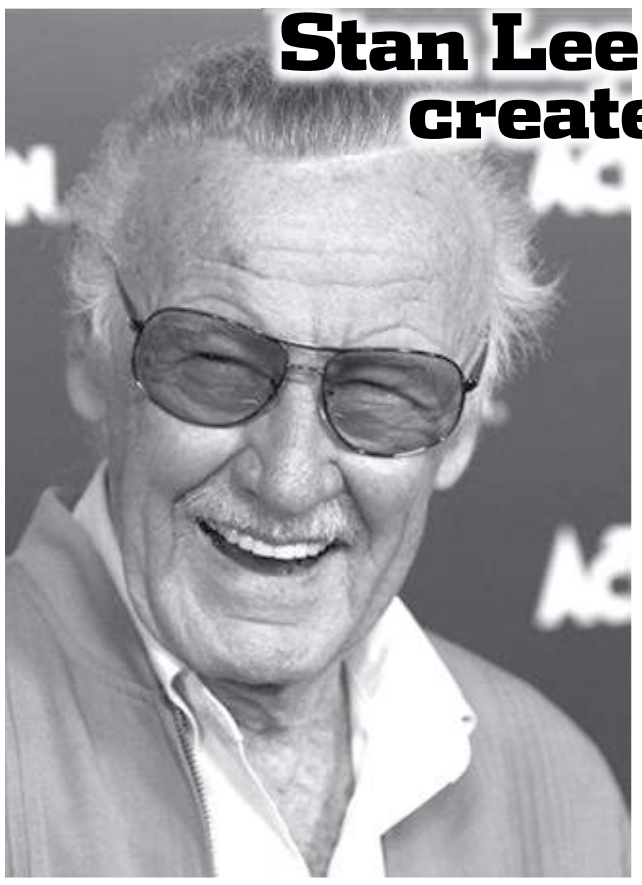
About $1.5 million of the $2.4 million raised so far in support of Proposition 19 has come from the measure's main sponsor, Oakland medical marijuana entrepreneur Richard Lee. The only other six-figure donation not from Lee came from adult entertainment entrepreneur Phil Harvey, who gave $100,000.

Parker's donation came shortly after the Yes on 19 campaign committee reported having meager cash on hand heading into the final weeks before the election. The money from Parker and Harvey went to a separate committee to fund the Drug Policy Alliance's work on behalf of the measure.

Much of the money will go toward a get-out-the-vote campaign targeting young voters and voters of color, Gutwillig said.

Facebook recently came under fire from some marijuana advocates who claimed it was turning away advertising on the site in support of Proposition 19. Facebook said in a statement that company policy prohibits images of drugs, drug paraphernalia or tobacco in paid advertising but that ballot measure supporters were still free to advertise using different images.

Stan Lee joins with MTV to create new comic series



AP

In this June 14, 2010 photo, Stan Lee arrives at the Activision E3 2010 Preview event in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—MTV is helping to bring Stan Lee's newest superhero to life.

The network is joining forces with Lee's POW Entertainment to create a new digital comic series called "The Seekers."

"It involves superheroes, it involves a very high-concept plot, it's a story such as you never have seen before, and it spans the centuries," Lee said in a telephone interview from New York Comic Con, where he and MTV are set to announce the new series on Saturday.

Lee went on to say that "The Seekers" is "more than just a comic. It's actually the start of a tremendous franchise."

He hopes "The Seekers" will grow into a TV series or film.

First, though, it has to be written and illustrated. MTV will hold a contest to find an undiscovered writer and artist to work on the new comic series. The winners will work with Lee and POW to develop the concept and create multiple issues.

The 87-year-old comics legend says he's excited to work in a digital arena.

"It's thrilling because it's a whole new discipline," he said. "But it's a funny thing: Whether it's electronic, whether it's digital, whether it's on paper, whether it's on a television screen, it's the story that counts. You don't let the fact that there's a different area of exhibition change the fact that you need a great story filled with action and surprises and suspense."

"The Seekers" will be available for free on the new MTV Geek website that launched earlier this week. The site will offer comics, horror, sci-fi and gaming news, as well as coverage of comic-book conventions and previews of new comic books, games and movies.

SNL takes another jab at Delaware's O'Donnell

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Saturday Night Live has taken another jab at Delaware Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell, making light of her recent television campaign ad.

In the political ad that debuted this week, O'Donnell tells the camera, "I'm not a witch." The line from O'Donnell's ad is itself a riff on comments she made on a talk show in 1999.

The spoof, featuring SNL actress Kristen Wiig, uses a similar close-up on the subject's face and some similar lines. It then diverges into an absurd take on the O'Donnell ad.

"Isn't that what the people of Delaware deserve?" Wiig asks. "A candidate who promises first and foremost that she's not a witch? That's the kind of candidate Delaware hasn't had since 1692."

She got a second mention during the show's regular "Weekend Update" sketch.

The comedy show kicked off its season with an O'Donnell sketch late last month. Two O'Donnell spokespeople didn't immediately respond to e-mails seeking comment after hours.

AP

In this Sept. 14, 2010 file photo, Delaware Republican Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell addresses supporters after winning the Republican nomination, in Dover, Del. Senate hopeful O'Donnell has a simple message in her campaign ads–"I'm you."

Elisabeth Hasselbeck joins 'Good Morning America'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elisabeth Hasselbeck is taking some time to appear on more than just "The View."

ABC announced Thursday that Hasselbeck is joining "Good Morning America" as a contributor, covering "hot-button family, lifestyle and child-rearing issues." The network said her first report, looking at the growing trend of parents and kids getting tattoos together, will air Monday. She said she was "thrilled" to explore issues facing parents and children.

Hasselbeck joined "The View" as a co-host in 2003.

AP

In this Sept. 12, 2008, file photo, TV host Elisabeth Hasselbeck arrives to the US Weekly 25 Most Stylish New Yorkers party in New York.

Fan told to stay away from Madonna's NYC home

NEW YORK (AP)—He might want to tell Madonna he's crazy for her, but a fan who was arrested while proclaiming his love near her New York City apartment is being told to stay at least 10 blocks away.

A judge made that a condition as he set bail at $20,000 on Friday for Robert Linhart.

The 59-year-old retired firefighter was arrested last month. Authorities say he scrawled messages of adoration for the "Crazy for You" and "Material Girl" singer outside her apartment building near Manhattan's Central Park.

Linhart's lawyer has said the messages weren't threatening—just signs of being a fan.

A grand jury declined to indict Linhart on graffiti charges. He pleaded not guilty Friday to resisting arrest and weapons possession. Authorities have said he had a knife and ice pick.

Warner Bros.: New 'Harry Potter' flick will be 2-D

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new "Harry Potter" film won't be as dimensional as it was supposed to be.

Warner Bros. Studios says the seventh installment in the popular boy-wizard franchise will be released only in standard 2-D, not 3-D as planned.

The studio said in a statement Friday that it was unable to complete the 3-D conversion of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" in time for its scheduled Nov. 19 release date, and it didn't want to keep fans waiting.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" will be released in both 2-D and 3-D on July 15, 2011.

AP

This film still released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger in Warner Bros.

Father refuses to condone teen drinking party at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Jason," is a 17-year-old high school senior honor student. My wife and I have managed to establish a fairly open relationship with our children; we encourage honesty and have attempted to establish mutual respect.

Recently, Jason asked if he could have seven or eight friends over to drink. My wife, reasoning that if teenagers are going to indulge in alcohol, it's better for them to do it in a safe, controlled environment, said yes. I, on the other hand, said no, based on the fact that the parents of the other teens would not approve. Jason admitted that was, in fact, the case.

While I agree with my wife's reasoning, I refuse to allow my house to become the place where teens can gather to drink without their parents' knowledge. Jason is now upset with me, and I'm afraid he may no longer be willing to confide in me. In my heart, I know I made the right decision, but my relationship with my son means the world to me. What do you think?

TORN IN HOUSTON

DEAR TORN: I agree. You did the right thing. You acted like a responsible parent. Not only would it have been illegal, but also, if any of your son's friends were to be injured after leaving the party drunk, the liability could have been yours.

That you asserted yourself will not ruin your relationship with your son forever. In time he will realize that your decision was the right one, and he will respect you for it. I know I do.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old woman who is trying to figure out my relationship with my sister. "Jasmine" is five years older and has always been outspoken, bossy and insensitive. My role has always been to be the quiet, meek one.

As children, Jasmine was jealous of me. She dominated me and was sometimes physically abusive. As an adult, I have struggled to assert myself. Every time I think I'm making headway, Jasmine will do or say something to take me down a few notches, leaving me devastated yet again.

I am tired. I have reached the point of giving up on having any kind of meaningful relationship with my sister. I don't know what else to do. We do not live close to each other and communicate mostly via e-mail. I have not confronted her personally because when we're together it's usually a family function, and I don't want to drag the whole family into it or upset our mother. Any suggestions?

JASMINE'S WHIPPING GIRL

DEAR WHIPPING GIRL: Thank your lucky stars that you are exposed to your sister only infrequently. Until you can bring yourself to respond firmly when your sister steps over the line, it appears you'll have to continue tolerating the pain.

My advice would be to speak your mind to Jasmine once and for all and let the chips fall where they may if she puts you down at a family gathering. It would hardly be considered "attacking her" if you said plainly that her comments are hurtful and offensive. It's the truth. And if she's doing this via the Internet, warn her once, and if she persists, then block her e-mails.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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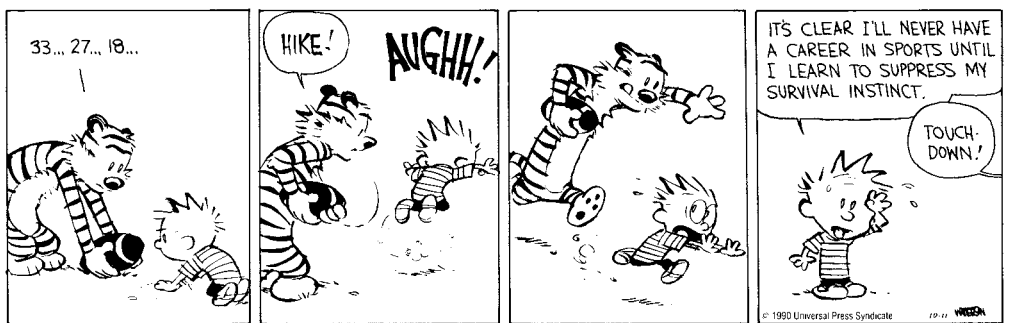
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


33... 27... 18...
HIKE!
AUGHH!
IT'S CLEAR I'LL NEVER HAVE A CAREER IN SPORTS UNTIL I LEARN TO SUPPRESS MY SURVIVAL INSTINCT.
TOUCH-DOWN!
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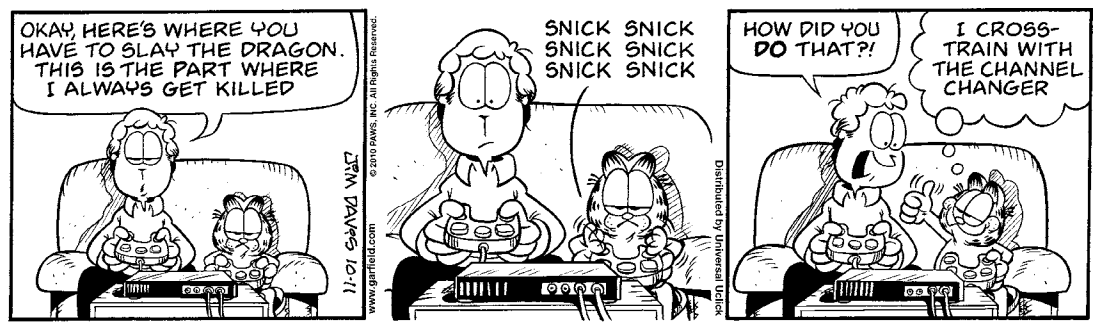
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


OKAY, HERE'S WHERE YOU HAVE TO SLAY THE DRAGON. THIS IS THE PART WHERE I ALWAYS GET KILLED
SNICK SNICK SNICK SNICK SNICK SNICK
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
I CROSS-TRAIN WITH THE CHANNEL CHANGER
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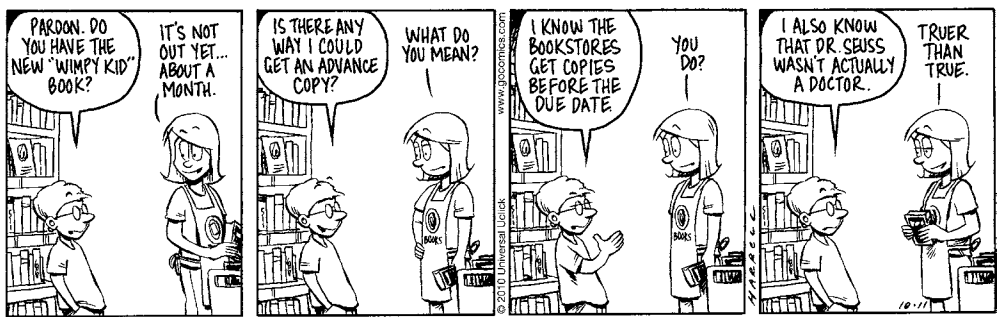
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


PARDON. DO YOU HAVE THE NEW "WIMPY KID" BOOK?
IT'S NOT OUT YET... ABOUT A MONTH.
IS THERE ANY WAY I COULD GET AN ADVANCE COPY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I KNOW THE BOOKSTORES GET COPIES BEFORE THE DUE DATE.
YOU DO?
I ALSO KNOW THAT DR. SEUSS WASN'T ACTUALLY A DOCTOR.
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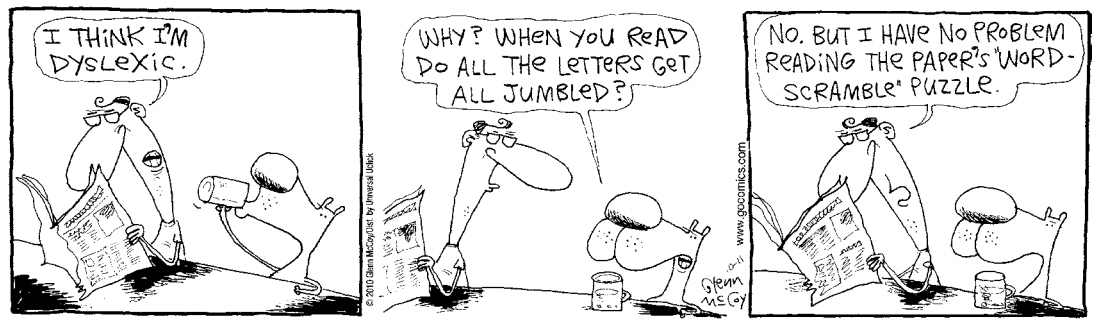
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I THINK I'M DYSLEXIC.
WHY? WHEN YOU READ DO ALL THE LETTERS GET ALL JUMBLED?
NO. BUT I HAVE NO PROBLEM READING THE PAPER'S "WORD-SCRAMBLE" PUZZLE.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

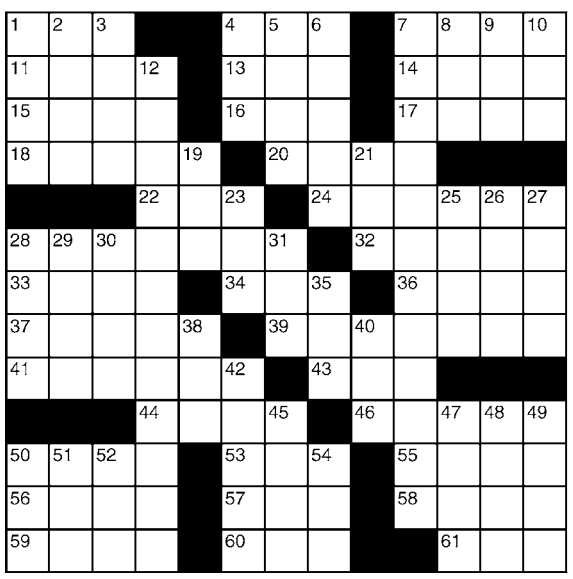
ACROSS
1 Request
4 Scrooge's cry
7 Soft drink
11 Colorado skiing venue
13 — Khan
14 Tiger's ex
15 Norway's capital
16 Thanksgiving mo.
17 Tense
18 Jubilant yell
20 Asian desert
22 Small barrel
24 Nullify
28 Largest planet
32 Tequila source
33 Remove the lid
34 Bill
36 Divisible by 2
37 Be a glutton
39 They end in "amen"
41 How form-fitting clothes fit
43 Brewery product
44 Rhône city
46 Farewell
50 Type choice
53 Youngster
55 Responsibility
56 Eye part
57 — out a living
58 Clinton's veep
59 Pod residents
60 Stitch
61 Silent assent

DOWN
1 Acknowledge
2 Cummerbund
3 Metric weight
4 Proscribe
5 Enthusiastic, plus
6 Destruction, plus
7 Aide for the blind
8 Antiquated
9 Use a shovel
10 Whatever quantity
12 Alice went through it
19 Favorite
21 Sheepish thing to say?
23 Obtain
25 Bear lair
26 Always
27 Camera part
28 Trots
29 "Once — a time"
30 Lima's land
31 Knock
35 Lingerie item
38 Tarzan portrayer Ron
40 — carte
42 Oxen's joiners
45 Sneaker brand
47 Privy to
48 Modern-day money
49 Second-hand
50 Spot on a domino
51 Rage
52 Spy org.
54 Morning moisture

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	P	E	C	S	■	W	H	E	R	E	■
S	C	R	E	A	M	■	O	A	R	I	N	G
C	H	A	N	G	E	■	O	R	A	N	G	E
A	L	I	■	E	A	G	L	E	■	G	I	N
M	E	S	A	■	R	O	E	■	C	E	R	T
S	P	E	L	L	■	O	N	W	A	R	D	S
■	■	■	L	E	I	■	S	O	P	■	■	■
I	M	P	O	U	N	D	■	K	O	R	E	A
M	E	A	T	■	B	U	S	■	S	U	M	S
O	W	N	■	O	R	B	I	T	■	N	I	P
F	L	A	N	G	E	■	G	R	A	N	G	E
F	E	M	A	L	E	■	M	O	D	E	R	N
■	D	A	T	E	D	■	A	D	D	L	E	■

Saturday's answer 10-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Trachtenberg, 25; Emily Deschanel, 34; Jane Krakowski, 42; Joan Cusack, 48

Happy Birthday: Rely on past experience when dealing with financial matters or contractual agreements. It may be time to restructure your goals and to change what hasn't been working properly for some time. Reuniting with someone who made you feel good about who you are and what you accomplish will reinforce your intentions for the future. Your numbers are 7, 13, 18, 20, 26, 37, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If you don't brag a little, no one will realize what you have done or can do. A partnership can help you if you both share your assets. An opportunity to make money or to sign an agreement can change the way you do business. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): The more time you spend working toward one of your goals, the better you will feel about who you are and what you are capable of doing. Put time aside late in the day for a little love and romance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect to experience an emotional tug of war. It's best not to make changes that aren't necessary until you are sure the end result will be to your advantage. Slow down; time is on your side. Serious thought will bring extraordinary results. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't argue when you should be keeping the peace and offering affection, compassion and understanding. Changes can be made with regard to your professional direction. Don't let someone else's responsibilities hold you back. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for the right moment to say what's on your mind. Diplomacy will count, making a huge difference when it's time to make a personal decision. Don't let a relationship you are in cause you to miss an opportunity. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may be questioning some of the decisions you made in the past. You have to maximize your talent and skills to the fullest if you want to stay ahead professionally. Romantic activities will help you avoid emotional problems. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get to the bottom of things by conversing with the people who have experience and pertinent information. Don't allow anyone to bully you into something that isn't right for you. Focus on maintaining what works. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The past may come back to haunt you if you have been underhanded or didn't handle a situation properly. Limitations due to a poor decision can take a long time to reverse. A personal partnership will undergo unexpected change. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't expect the people closest to you to understand what you are trying to accomplish. Keep home and work separate if you want to avoid disruptions. Not everyone will be truthful. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A change of pace as well as of attitude and direction may come as a surprise to others, but your well-thought-out plans will aid you in getting what you want. Stick to the rules and don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let a romantic encounter lead you astray or cause you to make poor choices, especially when it involves settlements, finances or your health. Having a poor attitude or giving up before you try something will only set you back further. Shake off any negativity. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be emotionally unpredictable and must make every effort to appear stable, especially when dealing with partners, finances or contractual agreements. It won't take much to have a situation spin out of control. Compromise will help you gain control. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious minded and determined to make a difference. You are intense and persistent when it comes to your beliefs. You stand for justice, fair play and loyalty.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3		4			1		
9		1		5				
	7		9	8				2
3		9	6					
	5	4				7	6	
					5	8		4
8				1	7		5	
				9		4		7
		5			6		8	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	3	1	7	4	2	6	9
6	4	7	9	2	8	3	1	5
1	2	9	3	5	6	7	8	4
7	9	2	6	4	5	1	3	8
8	1	5	7	3	9	4	2	6
3	6	4	8	1	2	9	5	7
4	3	6	2	8	7	5	9	1
2	7	8	5	9	1	6	4	3
9	5	1	4	6	3	8	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LEBRON JAMES **Solution: 7 letters**

S	P	E	L	B	U	O	D	E	L	P	I	R	T	T
S	E	L	S	S	E	I	K	O	O	R	(F)	(A)	(M)	(E)
O	T	B	A	P	L	D	E	T	F	I	G	S	A	N
U	E	A	R	Y	Y	A	R	A	A	N	O	E	L	E
L	A	U	T	O	E	S	N	I	A	C	N	O	S	H
J	M	L	I	S	F	R	R	I	L	E	E	H	E	C
A	E	A	R	N	D	O	S	E	F	M	A	S	N	D
R	U	V	I	I	L	M	V	R	I	Q	L	A	I	N
E	A	N	S	G	I	E	E	A	U	L	C	M	Z	U
C	E	A	H	T	L	E	M	I	S	H	A	E	A	B
E	C	S	H	A	Y	I	L	N	O	X	N	V	G	R
I	A	H	N	L	H	L	E	S	I	F	I	B	A	Y
V	L	D	E	E	E	H	E	M	A	G	I	C	M	C
E	G	R	A	S	T	N	U	N	R	E	T	S	A	E
R	E	T	R	A	T	S	H	O	O	T	I	N	G	G

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Last Saturday's Answer: Mishmash

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Yankees sweep Twins to return to ALCS

NEW YORK (AP)— Mariano Rivera got the last out, sealing yet another October triumph. Jorge Posada trotted out to mound, and the Yankees came out of the dugout in a businesslike manner to shake each other's hands.

No crazy celebration, at least not yet.

Postseason step No. 1 accomplished. Two more to go before the New York Yankees' big party can start.

And yet another quick October exit for the Minnesota Twins.

Phil Hughes pitched seven shutout innings, Marcus Thames and Nick Swisher homered and the Yankees beat the Twins 6-1 Saturday night to complete yet another three-game sweep of Minnesota and return to the AL championship series.

"We have a a long way to go," Derek Jeter said. "We gained a lot of confidence, the way we did last year in the playoffs."

Even newcomers sense only part of the mission is complete.

"That's three down," said Thames, whose fourth-inning homer blew open the game, "but we've got eight more games to go."

For starters, though, the Yankees sped past the Twins with ease. It's not just a pair of playoff victories for New York against Minnesota, but four in the last decade - all in the first round.

"This is not much fun at all, to come up here, being knocked out, knowing your season is over with again after three games in the playoffs," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We've had that a few times."

New York begins the ALCS on Friday at Texas or Tampa Bay. With the short first-round series, the defending World Series champions put ace CC Sabathia in position to start the opener.

A banged-up veteran team appears to have benefited from October off-days. The wild-card Yankees rebounded from a late-season fade in which they lost 17 of their final 26.

"Once you get to the postseason, it's like another season," said Curtis Granderson, who hit .455 in his first playoff series for New York. "You've just got to get across the finish line."

Robinson Cano got New York started when he tripled off Brian Duensing in the second inning and scored on Posada's single. Mark Teixeira added an RBI single in the third, and Thames made it 4-0 with his first career postseason homer, a two-run drive over the right-field scoreboard.

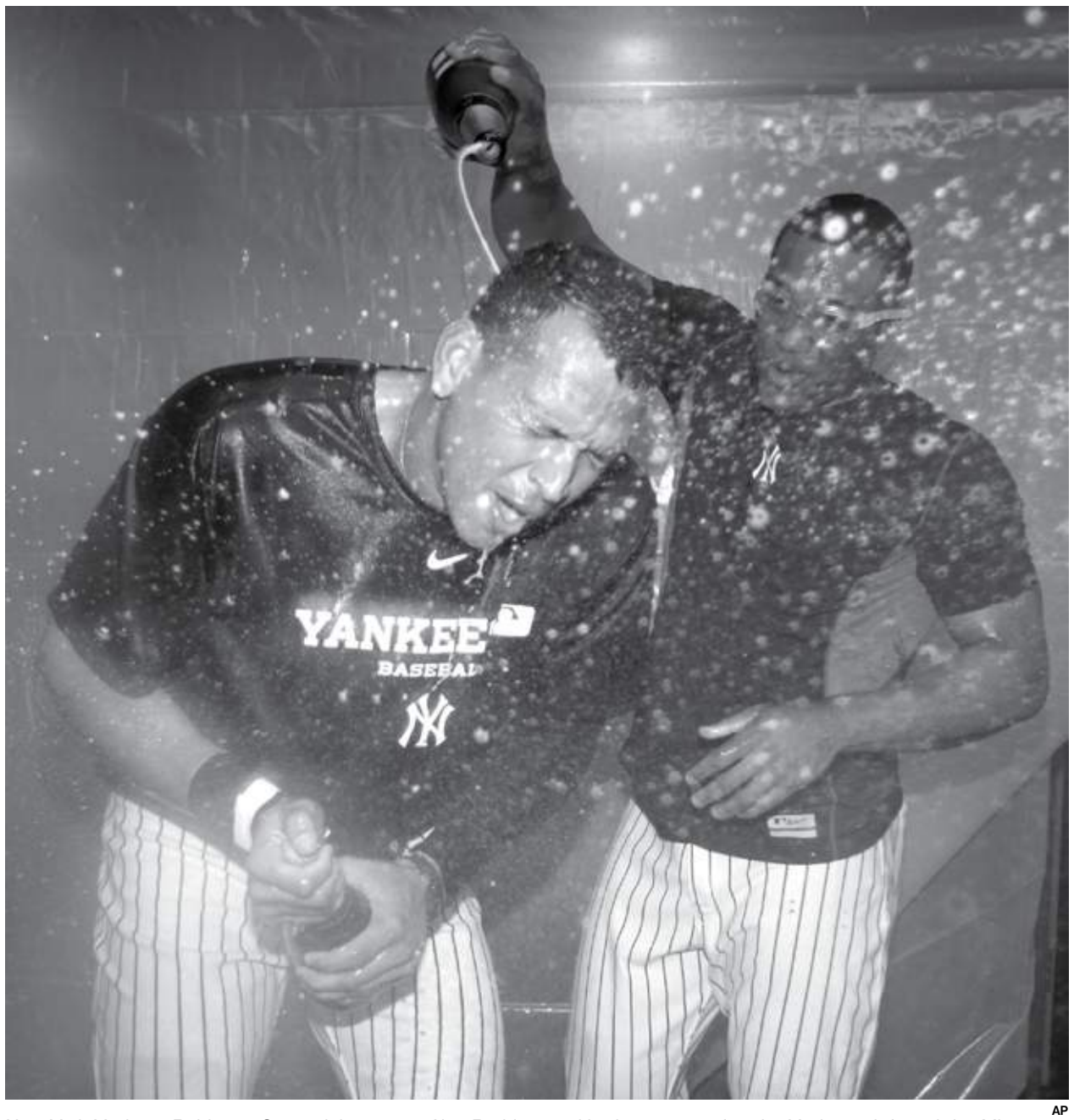
"I didn't get the job done when it counted," said Duensing, who allowed five runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Brett Gardner hit a sacrifice fly off Matthew Guerrier later in the fourth, and Swisher added a solo homer in the seventh against Scott Baker.

The AL Central champion Twins lost their 12th straight postseason game dating to 2004, one shy of the record set by the Boston Red Sox from 1986-95. Minnesota's last nine losses have been against the Yankees.

"We keep saying, `Well, next year we'll get these guys,'" Jason Kubel said. "That's happened a couple of times, and it hasn't worked out."

In addition to this year, the Yankees knocked out the Twins in the first round in 2003, 2004 and last season. New York outscored Minnesota 17-7 in this series and scorched the Twins 69-36 in the four playoff triumphs.



AP

New York Yankees Robinson Cano, right, sprays Alex Rodriguez with champagne after the Yankees defeated the Minnesota Twins, 6-1, in Game 3 of their American League Championship Series baseball game at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010 in New York.

"We expect everyone to produce. We don't just rely on one or two guys," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We rely on a circular lineup."

With Minnesota badly missing Justin Morneau, sidelined since midseason because of a concussion, the heart of the Twins' order Saturday, AL MVP Joe Mauer and Kubel, combined to go 3 for 20 (.150) with no RBIs in the series.

"Right now we're in a little rut here. We can't seem to put it together," Gardenhire said. "No excuses. We just didn't get it done. We haven't got it done. And we have to do some more searching here in trying to figure out how to get it done, because we definitely, definitely can do it. We know we can. We know we're a good baseball team. You just have to put it together at the right time."

After leading the major leagues during the regular season with a .285 average with runners in scoring position, the Twins couldn't get a single clutch hit in the playoffs. With runners in scoring position, they went an almost impossibly bad 0 for 14 before Denard Span's too-little, too-late single in the eighth off Kerry Wood.

Orlando Hudson followed with an RBI single, and a Mauer walk loaded the bases. Boone Logan threw one pitch, retiring Kubel on an infield pop, and David Robertson got Delmon Young on an inning-ending flyout. Minnesota finished the series 2 for 18 (.222) RISP with one RBI.

In the first postseason game at new Yankee Stadium following the death of George Steinbrenner in July, the late owner's four children all looked on, hoping to see a repeat of the run that brought the pinstripes their record 27th World Series title last year, which christened the $1.5 billion ballpark.

Hughes gave up four hits, struck out six and walked one, leaving to chants of "Hughes!" from the new Yankee Stadium record crowd of 50,840 following his first scoreless start since May 12. He was perfect his first time through the order, then allowed Span's single to right leading off the fourth. Hughes didn't allow a runner past second.

Four relievers followed, with Rivera closing it out 1-2-3 in a non-save situation. Fans didn't stick around long, knowing they'll be back.

Come October, the killer instinct in the Yankees comes out.

"You have to have the mindset to put them away," Jeter said. "Everyone in here came in ready to win today. We're fortunate to do it, but we have to have that mindset every game."

Rays 6, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, the Rangers Ballpark was buzzing in anticipation of a long-awaited celebration and the Tampa Bay Rays had been dreadful at the plate.

Five outs from elimination, the Rays changed everything - and get to play another day.

"The fight showed up again, and that's a good sign," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said.

John Jaso lined a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning after Carlos Pena had already delivered a rare clutch playoff hit for the Rays, who avoided elimination in the AL division series with a 6-3 victory Saturday over the Texas Rangers.

"I was so nervous, hoping we didn't get swept," said Carl Crawford, who homered for the Rays. "I feel so much better. It feels like we're winning the series right now."

Limited to a total of one run and eight hits while losing the first two games at home, Tampa Bay broke loose in the late innings.

The Rays, the AL's best team in the regular season, forced Game 4 on Sunday. A win would keep them alive for a deciding game in the best-of-five series Tuesday at Tropicana Field, where Texas had two impressive victories to start the series.

Ian Kinsler's leadoff homer in the seventh that put Texas up and appeared to set the stage for a series-clinching victory 50 seasons in the making. With the record crowd of 51,746 still hyped, Dan Johnson doubled off the wall with one out in the Rays eighth. Pena followed with an RBI single that made it 2-all.

"The whole attitude in the dugout, the spirit, everything, just came to life," Maddon said. "More like us."

Then Texas manager Ron Washington made a curious move bringing in All-Star closer Neftali Feliz in the eighth inning of a tie game. The hard-throwing righty set a major league rookie record with 40 saves in the regular season.

Feliz walked Jason Bartlett, the No. 9 hitter, before Jaso's liner to center gave the Rays their first lead in the series.

"I was going to use him on Jaso anyway," Washington explained, adding that Feliz would have pitched the ninth anyway.

Crawford led off the ninth with a homer to chase Feliz, and Pena added a two-run shot off reliever Dustin Nippert.

While Texas is still the only current major league franchise that has never won a postseason series, the Rays are trying to do what's only been done once before.

Of the 16 teams before this year to lose the first two games of a division series at home, only the 2001 New York Yankees have swept the next three games to advance. They did it against Oakland.

"We didn't want this to be our last game," Crawford said.

The AL West champion Rangers, in their 39th season in Texas after 11 seasons as the Washington Senators, still have never won a home playoff game (0-5). They won at Yankee Stadium in their first-ever playoff game in 1996, then lost three straight games in that series before being swept in 1998 and 1999.

"There's really no reason for us to dissect the end of the game," Rangers third baseman Michael Young said. "They came out and had some good at-bats late."

Right-hander Wade Davis makes his playoff debut for Tampa Bay as the starter Sunday. The Rangers counter Tommy Hunter, who was 13-4 in the regular season, after they decided before the series even began that Cliff Lee wouldn't pitch Game 4 on three days' rest - something the ace left-hander has never done.

Tampa Bay hit only .247 for the season, lowest of any playoff team since the 1972 Oakland A's. But that was stellar compared to the .125 mark for the first two games of the series, when the Rays totaled only eight hits.

Until B.J. Upton's RBI single in the sixth, the Rays hadn't scored in 16 innings and had gone 0 for 14 with runners in scoring position since Evan Longoria's single in the first of the series opener.

The way the Rays had been hitting, it seemed as if the Rangers might have enough when Kinsler pulled a 386-foot shot down the left-field line off Matt Garza.

The crowd was on its feet and waving white rally towels while cheering. In the front row near the Rangers dugout, Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan - the team president who this summer added the title part-owner - stood and applauded with a wide smile on his face.

Garza was done after allowing one earned run and five hits, but the 2008 ALCS MVP was bailed out by three relievers and the surprising bats.

Randy Choate got the only batter he faced before Joaquin Benoit worked 1 2-3 perfect innings for the victory. The only hiccup by the relievers was Rafael Soriano giving up a solo homer to Nelson Cruz in the ninth.

James and Bosh rest; Spurs win, 90-73

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Call it an off night for LeBron James and Chris Bosh, as in they got most of the night off.

James and Bosh, Miami's two big free-agent signings of the summer, played only the first quarter Saturday night as the Heat lost 90-73 to the San Antonio Spurs in a preseason game.

James scored 12 points and Bosh had two before spending the rest of the game on the bench in sweatsuits. The third leg of Miami's Big Three, Dwyane Wade, sat out his second straight game with a sore right hamstring.

DeJuan Blair scored 13 points for San Antonio. Patrick Beverley had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat.

One night after playing Oklahoma City, James said he could have played more "but I'll go off what coach (Erik Spoelstra) and the coaching staff want me to do and we go from there."

Spoelstra said he wanted to look at other players. But with Wade out, and James and Bosh getting limited minutes, it may take some time for the Heat to find their peak form.

"Tonight we took a step backward, but we had a lot of key guys out," James said. "We haven't put in a lot of our stuff, they haven't put in a lot of their stuff, so you just go and take it for what it is."

James, who signed with the Heat over the summer after seven seasons in Cleveland, got a mix of cheers and boos from the sellout crowd before the game. One woman held up a "LeBron Marry Me?" sign.

Once the action started, James scored 12 of the Heat's 26 points in the first quarter. Bosh, who scored 23 the night before, had a rough start. Blair went over him for San Antonio's first basket and Bosh missed five of his six shots in the quarter.

"If Coach wanted to hold me out and get some rest, I'm all for it," Bosh said. "I'm just going to have to get my legs again and get used to the NBA schedule again."

Miami Heat's LeBron James, left, is defended by San Antonio Spurs' George Hill during the second quarter of an NBA preseason basketball game, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 in San Antonio

AP

While the lineup of James, Bosh and Wade has made the Heat a favorite for the NBA championship, there's nothing new about San Antonio's Big Three of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, and Tony Parker.

The Spurs also sat their stars for long stretches. Ginobili played 10 minutes of the first quarter, but Duncan logged only seven minutes and didn't play after the period. When a relaxed Duncan leaned on the media table to stretch, he waved to two schoolgirls who called his name, bringing a squeal from the young fans.

Like everyone else, Ginobili seemed anxious to see what James, Bosh and Wade can do when they get on the court together for more than a few minutes.

"In a lot of teams, there are two All-Stars and really good players, so I want to see them with Dwyane, too. It's going to be interesting to see how they adjust to each other," Ginobili said."It's going to be really important for other players to make shots because they're going to be open."

James Jones put Miami up 46-40 when he was fouled on a 3-pointer and made the free throw. Then Ginobili and Parker showed they've still got some magic when Ginobili fired a bullet pass to Parker, who finished the play with a reverse scoop layup to trim Miami's lead to four at halftime.

Duncan was on the floor with Parker and Ginobili to start the third, but coach Gregg Popovich pulled him for Antonio McDyess a split second before the whistle to start play. The Spurs opened things up with an 18-2 run capped by Curtis Jerrells' long jumper that made it 63-53.

The Spurs outscored Miami 20-10 in the fourth. Miami committed 19 turnovers.

"I thought the whole bench did a good job defensively," Popovich said. "They were impressive with not just their effort, but their recognition. That was nice to see."

Richard Jefferson and Jerrells each scored 11 for San Antonio. Jones added 12 points for Miami.

"I think we're at a pretty good point right now," Bosh said. "It's only three games in and everybody here hasn't really played together."

Childress says Favre report not a distraction

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota Vikings coach Brad Childress said he has talked with Brett Favre about an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent racy photos to a former game hostess while he played for the New York Jets.

Childress said that a report on the website Deadspin and the subsequent news of a league investigation have not been a distraction for the team this week as it prepares to play the Jets on Monday night.

"We just talk about what's out there and look it right in the eye and deal with it to the extent we can," Childress said on Saturday. "It doesn't affect anybody else in this locker room, except Brett Favre."

Childress said he knew nothing about the details of the Deadspin report and hasn't heard from the league. He declined to speak specifically about his conversation with Favre.

"We always speak about (reports); about everything," Childress said.

Favre was not made available for comment, and the team said he did not plan to speak on the matter Saturday. He declined comment during his regular news conference on Thursday.

Deadspin posted a story that day which included several voicemails alleged to be sent by Favre to Jenn Sterger, who worked for the Jets at the time. The voice mails include a man asking to meet up with Sterger, who now is a TV personality for the Versus network. The website posted a video that contained the voicemails and several graphic pictures—said to be Favr—that were allegedly sent to Sterger's cell phone.

Sterger's manager, Phil Reese, said on Friday that his client "did not provide Deadspin with any information."

Deadspin said it paid a third party for the material and acknowledged that it's possible the man who sent the voice mails and photos may not be Favre.

The NFL said on Friday that it would review the allegations.

Sports Illustrated reported Saturday that Sterger would cooperate with the league's investigation. A league spokesman would not confirm the report and Reese declined comment.

"I guess my experience is they are distractions if you allow them to be," Childress said. "When you address it and talk about it all together, then you go forward."

Vikings receiver Percy Harvin said the team is focused on playing the Jets.

"We're just worried about football and beating the Jets," Harvin said. "We support everyone in this locker room in good times and bad."

NFL BRIEFS

Favre probable for Vikings against Jets

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings have listed Brett Favre as probable to play against the New York Jets with tendinitis in his throwing elbow. Coach Brad Childress said Saturday that Favre had an MRI this week that revealed only mild inflammation. He says the 40-year-old quarterback's soreness "flares up every now and again." Cornerback Chris Cook is out this week after having surgery on a torn meniscus in his left knee. Cook missed the first two games of the season with a torn meniscus in his right knee. Cook says his left knee injury is not as serious and he hopes to return more quickly. Center John Sullivan is listed as questionable with a calf injury and tight end Visanthe Shiancoe is probable with a hamstring injury.

Kolb will start for injured Vick

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kevin Kolb has another chance to prove he's a capable starting quarterback.Kolb will replace the injured Michael Vick(notes) when the Philadelphia Eagles visit San Francisco on Sunday. Vick didn't practice all week because of a rib cartilage injury, and won't travel with the team. Though coach Andy Reid didn't rule Vick out for the game until Friday, Kolb has been preparing as if he would play. "I approached it like that all week, and that's the way you have to do it, so it doesn't change anything in my mind," Kolb said. "But it just helps you focus in on that you're the guy and you've got to go in and win."

AdChoices Vick was hurt in the first quarter of Philadelphia's 17-12 loss last Sunday to Donovan McNabb and the Washington Redskins. It was a costly loss for the Eagles (2-2). Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel and wide receiver Riley Cooper sustained concussions and will not play against the 49ers (0-4). But running back LeSean McCoy is expected to play despite a broken rib.

Redskins cut WR Devin Thomas

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—The Washington Redskins on Saturday released receiver Devin Thomas, a 2008 second-round draft pick who failed to impress new coach Mike Shanahan. Thomas was replaced on the roster by running back Keiland Williams, who was promoted from the practice squad for Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers.

Thomas was one of three pass-catchers taken in the second round two years ago in what has turned out to be an extremely disappointing draft by then-front office head Vinny Cerrato. Thomas had trouble running routes correctly and was dogged by questions about work ethic, receiver Malcolm Kelly hasn't been able to stay healthy and is on injured reserve, and tight end Fred Davis is stuck behind Chris Cooley. This year, Thomas couldn't make inroads despite a wide open No. 2 receiver competition that still hasn't been adequately filled. Offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan said recently that Thomas needed to take a more professional approach to practice to earn playing time on offense.

Robert Guerrero is new Little League president

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Incoming SLLB president Robert Guerrero, third left, joins other elected officials of the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. for a group photo last Friday at Minatchom Atdao pavilion.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball elected Robert Guerrero as its president for the upcoming 2011 season during a general membership meeting last Friday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

Joining Guerrero on the SLLB Board are vice president Claudia Guerrero, treasurer Annie Flores, secretary/player agent Peding Tenorio, safety officer/umpire consultant Manny Tenorio, and statisticians Bernard Cabrera and A.J. Palacios.

Besides the election of new board members, SLLB also created two positions—the finance/fundraising manager and concessions manager. These positions have not yet been filled.

Another general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, at the Commonwealth Election Commission Office in Susupe, where all 10 SLLB positions will be finalized.

There are two open positions available and two officers are currently taking on dual roles. Future meetings will aim to complete a more balanced board. All parents, fans, and volunteers are invited to the next meeting, as the SLLB is hoping for a greater turnout as the season nears.

Robert Guerrero will take over the place of outgoing SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi. Once the 2011 season starts, Guerrero has the authority to appoint officers should anyone resign from duty.

The Saipan Little League Baseball usually kicks off its season in February, holding competitions in the Major, Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions. The Major division, which draws the most participants every year, will be played at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, while the three other age group categories will have their games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

JACK

From Page 28

pany his son, Koen, to the finish line.

Koen completed the 4.7-mile race in 57:58, while older brother Kevin came in early, timing in at 57:13.

Jack competed in his fifth run in a row and also recorded his fifth victory. Last week, he topped the 10-kilometer race in the 2010 Coffee Trail Run.

"I am trying to join as many races as I can this year, as next year I am planning to slow down and concentrate on training younger runners," said Kabiriel, who defeated Keum Bae Ji (36:02) and Ben Wood (38:29) for the top finish.

Besides his two sons, Kabiriel also brought Vinnie Inos and Austin Kosam at the Paupau Beach for the morning race.

Inos was the first finisher in the youth division, clocking in at 47:43, while Kosam submitted 58:00.

Mieko Carey was the fourth overall finisher and first female to make it to the finish line at the 38:48 mark.

Carey failed to get her first place medal and $100 cash prize at the awards ceremony, as after the run race, she picked up her bike to continue her morning training session. Carey used the Saipan Radar Run to warm for a bike ride and in preparation for the 2010 XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii, this month.

The 32-year-old Carey crossed the finish line ahead of Mamiko Oshima Berger (39:27) and Rebecca Read (42:00).

Thirty-three runners joined the inaugural race. The list include Amanda Kloeppel (46:48), Lando Olais (58:01), Shimizu Yosushi (48:10), Eric Cooke (46:39), Joel Tudela (46:30), Roland Dowai (55:12), Roze Inos (57:57), Jeff Boyer (57:59), Yosh Suzuki (42:15), Michael Benavente (53:17), Michael Towle (42:19), Steve Pixley (39:47), Joshua Berger (51:33), Noel Altamirano (49:30), Peter Bonser (51:32), Dennis Chan (49:07), Rommel Bartolo (51:30), June Evangelista (53:42), Jess Aquamera (57:24), Dennis Simmons (46:57), and Darwin Barbo (50:59).

Meanwhile, race organizer Brad Ruszala would like to thank volunteers and the following event sponsors for the success of the 2010 Saipan Radar Run: Marianas Visitors Authority, Mayor of Saipan, Triple J Super Fresh Market, Foremost, POWERade, IT&E, Xterra Saipan, Tagaman, Taga Inc., Gold's Gym, Brabu Pharmacy, The Athlete's Foot, All-Star Sporting Goods, Michelob Ultra, Digital Motion, Seafix, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network, Island Apparel, Saipan Tribune, National Office Supply, 103.9 FM KZMI, Top Notch, and MEGAbyte.

BOWLERS

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After getting recognition from NMASA, Talavera and Sablan are now eligible for the coveted 2010 NMASA Athletes of the Year award. The two bowlers will battle other monthly winners for the yearend title.

Meanwhile, SBA held the first of its two-day roll-offs for this month yesterday with the winners of the October tournament earning a chance to be nominated for the NMASA monthly plum.

The second roll-off will be played today and although adult keglers are allowed to bowl twice, only the highest score will be counted to determine the October King and Queen of the Lanes.

MHS

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will compete in the last three qualifiers.

"A lot of students have been participating in this event since elementary school, so even though there were not so many kids in this first race, a whole lot more are expected to show up in time for the championship meet," Rangamar said.

The second qualifier will be held on Oct. 23, while dates of the last two will be announced later. The All Schools Cross Country Championship is set for Nov. 13 and NMA is hoping to stage the event's finale at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

To qualify for the championship meet, all runners must compete in at least one qualifier. Around 100 competitors are expected to run in the finale, so organizers are expecting the turnout to increase as the season goes on.

The series of qualifiers and the championship will have separate competitions for U8, U10, U12, U14, and U18 age groups. Medals will be awarded to the Top 5 finishers in each age group, while trophies will be given to the Top 3 schools in each division.

VFW One Shot whips Gaiana-C

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

VFW One Shot posted a 10-5 win over Gaiana-C 5 to hang on to the lead in the Chichirika division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

Gaiana-C won three of the four singles 301 matches for an early lead, but One Shot came back strong and swept both wild cricket games, a game of partners 501, and three of the four cricket matches. One Shot kept its momentum and took both partners baseball games and the final team 1001 match for the win.

One Shot improved to a 90-60 record for a one-game lead over Buddies' Kagman-1 (89-61). Jonny's Night Hawks are in third with 79 wins and 71 losses. K-1's recent, 14-1, domination over VFW's Oh! MG moved them up into the leader board overnight before One Shot regained the top spot.

CHICHIRIKA DIVISION
Night Hawks 11, World-V 4

The visiting Night Hawks got off to a great start and swept all four singles 301 matches. Gaia's World-V swept both wild cricket games in an effort to bounce back, but the Hawks pounced them again and took both partners 501 games and all four cricket matches. The Hawks then added a partners baseball win for good measure, while World-V took the final team 1001 match.

Kagman-1 14, Oh! MG 1

Kagman-1 demolished Oh! MG, winning the first 12 consecutive games before missing an opportunity to run the table by just one partners baseball match.

KINGFISHER DIVISION
Sang and the Gang 8, Chagi Fan 7

Home team Chagi Fan swept both wild cricket games for the early lead after both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches. D'Pirates Bar & Grill's' Sang and the Gang then swept all four cricket matches and a partners baseball game for the automatic win. Chagi Fan took the final team 1001 match.

Despite the loss, Chagi Fan, with its 88 wins and 62 losses, still holds a nine-game margin over Buddies Black Pearls (79-71) and Charlie's Sabalu (79-71).

Lucky Shots 9, Sabalu 6

Sabalu won three of the four singles 301 matches for a brief lead. Then both team traded wins as Lucky Shots took both wild cricket matches, while Sabalu won both partners 501 games. Lucky Shots turned it on in the end and won three of the four cricket matches, both partners baseball games, and the final team 1001 match.

Black Pearls 10, Slow Hand 5

The visiting Black Pearls started well and won three of the four singles 301 matches, a game of wild cricket, and a game of partners 501. Then they secured the automatic victory after winning three of the four cricket matches. The Pearls went on to add both partners baseball games to their total, while Slow Hand took the final team 1001 match.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

maybe in round eight or round nine," added the Briton, who confirmed he will also spar with Pacquiao.

Khan, the 23-year-old 2004 Athens Olympic Games silver medalist, will battle the hard-hitting Argentine Marcos Maidana four weeks after the Pacquiao-Margarito WBC super welterweight title fight at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium on Nov. 13.

Despite being ill the past two days and failing to work out on Wednesday, Pacquiao sparred six rounds Thursday, four with Michael Medina and two with Glen Tapia.

"He looked okay," said Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz. "Manny was mostly concentrating on his timing and he's taking control of his sparring."

Koncz said Roach asked Pacquiao whether he wanted to spar and "he said okay." He also said Pacquiao would jog on Friday.

Despite reports detailing the height and reach advantage of the bigger Margarito, Khan said Pacquiao is "super, bigger, stronger."

"While Manny is a nice guy outside the ring, when he gets into the ring he's an animal," Khan said, adding he is a big fan of the Filipino champ.

The Briton also said training with the world's pound-for-pound king gives him the extra push to train harder.

Pacquiao had "always invited me to the Philippines and it's nice for me to come here, meet Manny, meet his people and meet the Filipinos as well," Khan said.

One of Britain's biggest name in boxing today said his main thrust so far is to build his conditioning because it is still too early to prepare for his Dec. 11 fight.

At the same time, Khan was full of praise for Roach and conditioning guru Alex Ariza.

"Freddie gave me more focus, made me more hungry and more technical" while Ariza "gets me in the best condition and makes sure you're still throwing punches up to the 12th round.

Weekend Sports

Record-breaking week for Tsunami swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers posted the biggest accomplishment last week after setting three new CNMI records at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Kensuke Kimura tallied three official marks, while Lukas Kang and Angel Marie Tan had one each. Kimura logged new CNMI records in the boys' 13 to 14 100m and 200m backstroke and 50m breaststroke. Kang's record came from boys U8's 100m backstroke event, while Tan's was in the girls' 11 to 12 200m breaststroke.

While Tsunami Saipan swimmers were racing at the Marpi pool, more than 50 runners were doing their own race during the 2010 Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

The trail run had two courses—the 10-kilometer event and the grueling 30-k run. Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Akane Imaya topped the shorter course, while Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Miyachi Fujio dominated the longer race.

A day after the trail run, it was CNMI bikers' turn to hit the road through the Mieko Carey XTERRA Fundraising Race.

The fundraiser had two divisions—mountain bike and road. Butch Sublemente ruled the mountain bike race, followed by Arnel Cruz and Russ Quinn. In the women's division, Jackie Van Dan prevailed over Kimiko Hasegawa and Kanae Quinn.

Kieran and Melanie Daly prevailed in the road bike category. Kieran finished first ahead of Lewie Tenorio and Joe Ngiraubuuch.

The following day after the Mieko fundraiser, a new league opened with the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization starting the 2010-2011 season of the MISO Girls Basketball League.

Marianas High School and Kagman High School played in the opening day with the Dolphins sweeping the varsity and junior varsity games.

Still in basketball, the UFO caging kicked off its playoff round last week with four teams still standing for the two finals tickets in the open division. Staying afloat for the finals are SIP, MAFEA, Cavite, and defending champion MDX. In the masters division, VisMinda, MDX, MAFEA, and Cabalen are fighting for the finals berths.

In other developments last week, Tony Satur took the last slot on the CNMI golf team that will compete in the Pacific Games next year; the GCA Eagles swept the regular season of the private school volleyball league; and Traders Insurance renewed its support for the development of badminton in the Commonwealth.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Badminton Association representatives and Traders Insurance officials pose for a group photo during a donation turnover ceremony for the 2010 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

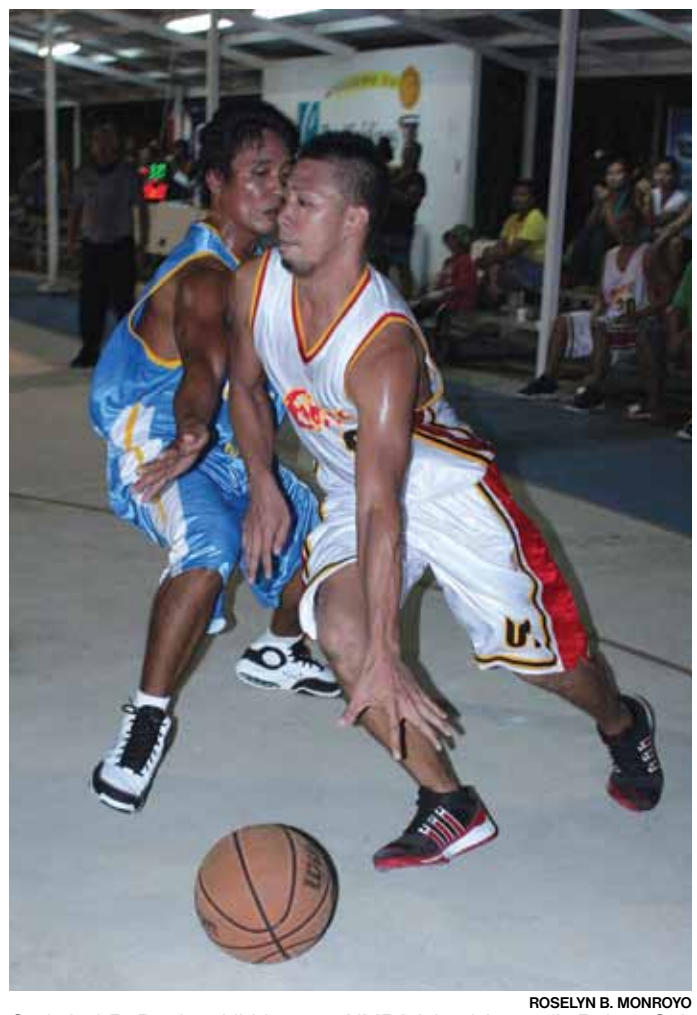
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan, Kensuke Kimura, and Lukas Kang pose for a group photo after their record-breaking swims at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
The MHS Lady Dolphins' Ira Palero pulls up for a shot against Kagman High School defenders during the opening of the MISO caging last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel crosses the finish line of the 2010 Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIP-Mobil's Leo Factor goes for a layup during their playoff game against SIS-Marianas Wireless in the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tyce Mister, left, and Russ Quinn cool down after the race in the Mieko XTERRA fundraiser at Paupau Beach.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cavite's J.R. Barrios dribbles past NMBA-Island Apparel's Robert Guiang during their playoff game in the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Yankees sweep Twins to return to ALCS

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Jack, Mieko rule Saipan Radar Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel ran the fastest in the 2010 Saipan Radar Run, completing last Saturday's race in 35 minutes and 23 seconds.

His time was more than four minutes ahead of his target and Kabiriel admitted he had to push his pace not because he was wary of runners chasing him, but for professional reason.

"I had to finish the race before 8am,

as I had to go to work. I don't want to be late for work," the Safety First employee said.

"I haven't done the complete course, only halfway, and I was surprised it was not that hard. It was mostly climbs for about three miles, but it was a pretty good race," said Kabiriel.

The inaugural Saipan Radar Run started at 7am and by the time Kabiriel made it to the finish line, he still had more than 20 minutes to prepare for work. He even had a time to accom-

See JACK on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mieko Carey, were the first male and female finishers in the 2010 Saipan Radar Run that hit the road last Saturday.

Bowlers secure NMASA top athletes of the month awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

The NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Month (for September) awards went to bowling's Robert Talavera and Gina Sablan.

Talavera and Sablan earned NMASA members' nods after topping the Saipan Bowling Association and Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes monthly tournament last month.

Sablan

Talavera, who owned one of the perfect games in the SBA history, took the Budweiser September King of the Lanes title after beating 24 other bowlers in the monthly roll-offs.

The J's Restaurant employee carded a four-game series total of 836 pinfalls for an average of 209 pinfalls per game. He had a winning margin of only three pinfalls against runner-up Raymond Zapanta, who tallied 833 in four games for an average of 208.25. Besides Zapanta, Talavera also defeated Raul Dumapit, who settled for third spot with his series total of 817 and average of 204.25.

Sablan earned the NMASA monthly plum after ruling the 19-player women's roll-off.

Talavera

Sablan collected a total of 753 pinfalls in four games for an average of 188.25 pinfalls. She prevailed over perennial monthly roll-off winner Ron Cal and Gloria Omechelang. Cal was 39 pinfalls short of Sablan's total to drop to second place, while Omechelang recorded only 690 pinfalls.

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'Pacquiao will stop Margarito'

AP

Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao led thousands of runner during an early morning marathon Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010 along Ayala Ave. in Manila's financial district of Makati, Philippines. More than 130,000 people led by former President Fidel Ramos and boxing star Manny Pacquiao, registered for the marathon, which was organized to raise funds to help clean up Manila's heavily poluted Pasig River and try to set a Guinness World Record for the most number of participants in a foot race.

BOXING

MANILA—Antonio Margarito will be tough but Manny Pacquiao will stop him in round eight or nine.

WBA light welterweight champion Amir Khan declared this after arriving early Thursday morning and before driving up to Baguio City where he will train alongside Pacquiao.

"I think Manny is the best fighter in the world and whoever they put in front of him, I think Manny will beat Margarito," said Khan, who is also being trained by Freddie Roach. "He's got the skills, the speed, the footwork.

"This fight against Margarito will be tough, but I think Manny will stop him

See PACQUIAO on Page 26

MHS runners off to good start

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics

Marianas High School fielded a six-runner team in the first qualifying tournament for the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship last Saturday, showing its determination to defend its title.

The Dolphins, who won the high school division overall title last season, had Danny Bai topping the 2.2-mile course of the first of a series of qualifiers at the CPA Field. Bai timed in at 13 minutes and 45.52 seconds.

Teammate John Gozon came in next at the 15:15.36 mark, followed by Andrian Reyes (15:52.34), Rom Adantao (16:45.03), and Jake Belza (18:12.38).

The lone female runner on the group—Lina Manalili, completed the race in (19:55.27).

The elementary division had only one qualifier in Joshalyn Flora of Garapan Elementary School. Flora took the shorter course and finished the 1.1-mile race in 9:24.38.

Elias Rangamar of the Northern Marianas Association, which is organizing the cross country series, is hoping that more student-runners

See MHS on Page 26

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Participants and volunteers in the first qualifying tournament for the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship pose for a group photo last Saturday at the CPA Field.